Los Angeles Times

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Mexico tragedy prompts outrage

Migrant advocates say policies by the nation and the U.S. are to blame for deadly fire.

By Kate Linthicum, Patrick J. McDonnell and Gabriela Minjares

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico — The surveillance video is short, but brutal.

Taken from inside a migrant detention center in northern Mexico, it shows flames spreading quickly inside a locked cell, and detainees pleading for help.

As black smoke billows, several guards are seen hurrying away without attempting to rescue the prisoners from the growing fire.

At least 38 migrants were killed and dozens more were injured Monday night in the blaze at a National Migration Institute lockup in Ciudad Juarez, just south of the U.S. border, according to authorities.

It was the deadliest incident in recent memory at Mexico's notoriously crowded immigration holding centers and another reminder of the many perils faced by migrants trying to reach the United States.

Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said the fire began around 10 p.m. after migrants learned that they were going to be deported to their home countries — and ignited mattresses in protest. He said most of the dead were from Central and South America.

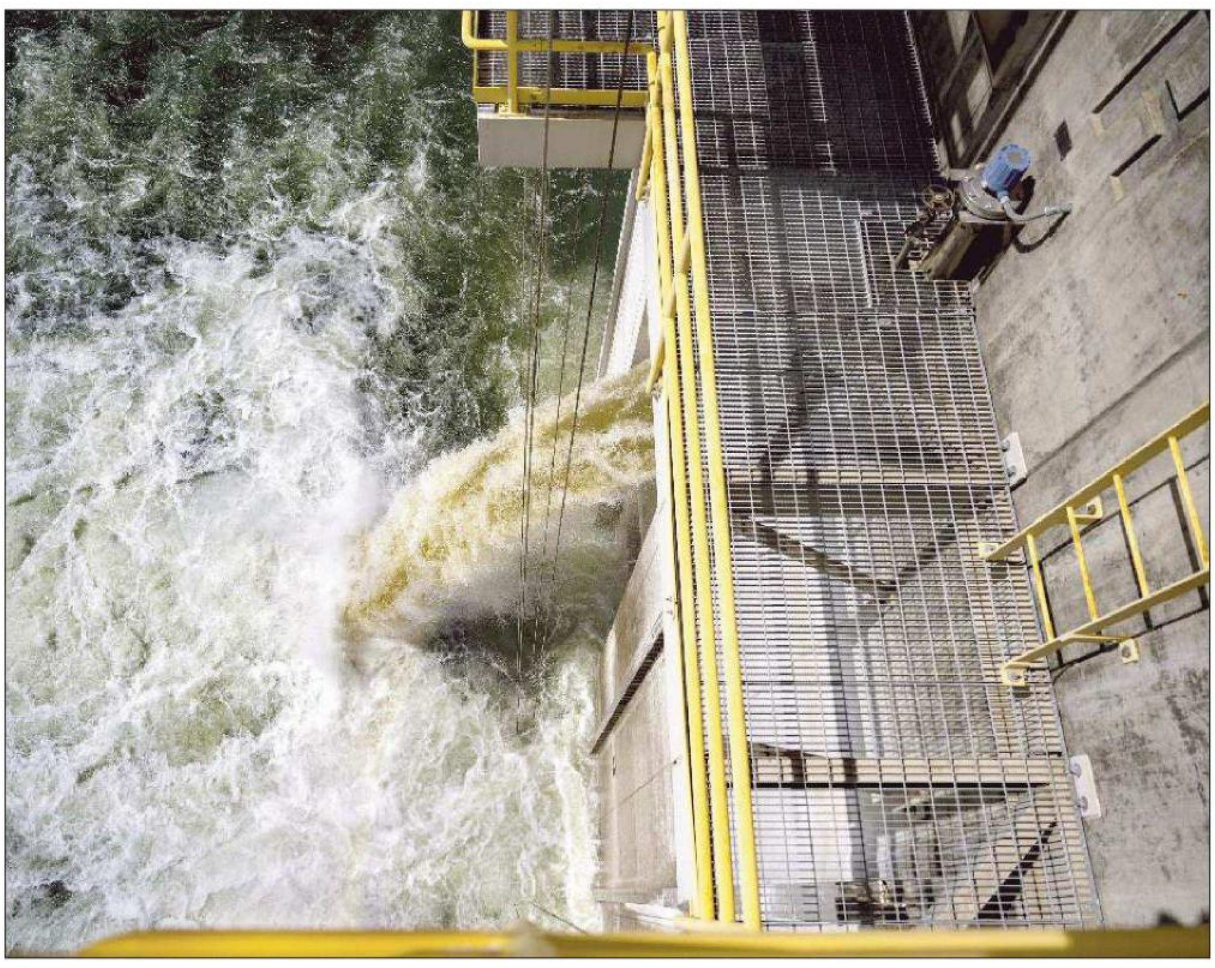
"They never imagined it would cause this terrible tragedy," López Obrador said.

A Mexican federal official with knowledge of the case who spoke on condition of anonymity offered a different motive for the protest, saying it began because 68 men were packed into a cell meant for no more than 50 people — with no access to drinking water.

The fire provoked outrage on both sides of the border, with migrant advocates

[See **Mexico,** A10]

> 'Nature gave us a lifeline in the face of climate whiplash.'
>
> — Adel Hagekhalil, MWD's general manager, on the replenishing of Diamond Valley Lake



Gina Ferazzi Los Angeles Times

WATER cascades into Diamond Valley Lake on Monday following a series of winter storms as officials begin the process of refilling what is the backbone of Southern California's water storage system.

Torrent of water welcome sight after years of drought

Diamond Valley Lake is being refilled to full capacity

By Hayley Smith

Following a series of winter storms that eased drought conditions across the state, Southern Californians celebrated a sight nobody has seen for several punishing years: water rushing into Diamond Valley Lake.

The massive reservoir — the largest in Southern California — was considerably drained during the state's driest three years on record, with nearly half of the lake's supply used to bolster minuscule allocations from state water providers.

But an extraordinarily wet winter allowed officials from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California to turn on the taps in Hemet once again. Water transported from Northern California roared out of huge concrete valves Monday and into the blue lake at 600 cubic feet per second — marking an incredible turnaround for a region that only months ago had barely enough supplies to meet the health and safety needs of 6 million people.

"Nature gave us a lifeline in the face of climate whiplash," said Adel Hagekhalil, MWD's general manager, from the shore of the refilling lake. "We need to take this lifeline, replenish our resources, but continue to work and plan ahead."

Officials said the gushing spigots should be able to refill the 810,000 acre-foot reservoir to its full capacity by the end of the year. An acre-foot is approximately 326,000 gallons.

But although the state's abundance of water is the silver lining of a deadly and devastating winter storm season, it's also a reminder of how delicate conditions are in the face of California's

[See **Lake,** A10]

YET ANOTHER STORM

A "cold and vigorous" system will make its way to the Southland on Wednesday. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

LEGAL BATTLE OVER FIRE TACTICS

Air-dropped retardant does more harm than good, a lawsuit filed against the U.S. Forest Service argues.

By Alex Wigglesworth

For most Californians, the sight of aircraft spewing neon-pink liquid over flaming trees and brush has become a hallmark of aggressive wildfire suppression campaigns — if not a potent symbol of government's struggle to control increasingly destructive forest fires.

But some forest advocates say aerially delivered retardant does more harm than good. They say that retardant drops are expensive, ineffective and a growing source of pollution in rivers and streams.

"There's no scientific evidence that it makes any difference in wildfire outcomes," forester Andy Stahl said. "This is like dumping cash out of airplanes, except that it's toxic and you can't buy anything with it, because it doesn't work."

Now, a federal lawsuit in Montana that seeks to stop the U.S. Forest Service from dropping retardant into water could reshape how the agency battles wildfires across the Western U.S.

The case is being watched closely by officials in California, where an extremely wet winter is likely to stoke the growth of so-called connecting fuels — grasses that can carry small flames from a spark on a roadway to chaparral and forested areas.

"This is going to destroy towns and many communities in California if they allow this to go through," said Greg Bolin, mayor of Paradise, a town that was razed by the Camp fire in 2018. "To maybe save a few fish, really?"

[See **Fire retardant,** A7]

Allen J. Schaben Los Angeles Times

A JOGGER on Balboa Island in Newport Beach, home to a recent trend of people buying a fraction of upscale single-family homes for vacationing.

A TIMESHARE SPIN

Newport Beach is latest California city battling new breed of luxury party houses: Fractional ownership

By Hannah Fry

Max Gardner and his wife, Artyn, decided to sell their home in Irvine and move to Balboa Island eight years ago because they wanted something more than a comfortable place to live. They were hunting for a lifestyle.

On this tony man-made island in Newport Beach, stately homes with street-facing patios are clustered together on avenues named after gemstones. Residents zip around in golf carts, taking in the harbor boats, art fairs and chic boutiques. Visitors ride in on a ferry to buy frozen bananas from a sweet shop that inspired the family banana stand on the TV sitcom "Arrested Development."

People who live here are fierce defenders of the island's cozy charm. They've battled the Federal Aviation Administration over jet noise from nearby John Wayne Airport and successfully fought to regulate short-term vacation rentals.

Now, residents have set their sights on a burgeoning real estate trend known as fractional

[See **Fractional,** A5]

Transfer students guaranteed admission under UC plan

Qualified applicants would be accepted to the system but not to particular campuses.

By Teresa Watanabe

The University of California on Tuesday unveiled its first-ever systemwide admission guarantee for qualified transfer student applicants — but access to particular campuses is not assured.

To receive the guarantee, community college students would need to complete a newly unified set of general education courses required by both UC and California State University, complete specific coursework needed for UC majors, and earn a minimum GPA.

Those who are not admitted to their campuses of choice would be offered a spot at UC Santa Cruz, UC Merced or UC Riverside, a UC admissions official told legislators at an Assembly budget hearing Tuesday. The intent is to simplify the transfer path so students clearly understand the requirements and don't take more courses than needed, UC officials said.

"The key to transfer is to ask of students only what they need to do and not more," said Susan Cochran, chair of the UC systemwide Academic Senate. "We think this proposal ... is a positive step forward for simplifying transfers and helping UC meet its responsibilities to the people of the state of California."

Three-fourths of applicants from state community colleges are admitted to UC, more than half of those enrolled pay no tuition and

[See **Transfer,** A5]

Newsom scores a win over Big Oil

A new state law doesn't go as far as capping profits, but it does show him as a progressive leader. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Seeking profits in women's sports

Monarch Collective investment fund follows Angel City FC's playbook. **BUSINESS, A6**

Weather

Morning rain.
L.A. Basin: 60/47. **B6**

7 85944 00200 5

John Amis Associated Press

NASHVILLE AFTERMATH

New details emerge, including that the shooter was "under doctor's care," police say. Above, mourners at the Covenant School. **NATION, A4**

VISIT…

LANZAROTE
Caliente.com

Some good comes of anti-Obamacare laws

MICHAEL HILTZIK

The law of unintended consequences is never as powerful as when those consequences originate from a hasty, ill-considered action.

Conservative forces in Ohio and Wyoming are learning this the hard way.

In those states, judges have blocked antiabortion laws enacted in the wake of the Supreme Court's egregious Dobbs decision overturning federal abortion rights by citing partisan laws enacted to undermine the Affordable Care Act in 2011 and 2012.

Those anti-Obamacare laws codified their citizens' right to choose their own health insurance and healthcare.

Their goal was to counteract the ACA's mandate that individuals carry health insurance. The laws were written expansively, however, to incorporate guarantees of unrestricted access to healthcare.

"The laws were passed saying people have a healthcare choice," says David S. Cohen, an expert on abortion law at Drexel University. "They didn't specify 'with respect to health insurance plans,' but just used general wording. When you use wording that talks about choice in healthcare, it's a pretty natural fit with respect to abortion care."

Ohio's law — the Health Care Freedom Act, enacted as a constitutional amendment in a 2011 ballot referendum — bars the enactment of any state or local law that prohibits, among other things, "the purchase or sale of healthcare."

The Wyoming constitutional amendment was crafted by legislators and passed by voters last year, as Quinn Yeargain, a law professor at Widener University Commonwealth Law School in Harrisburg, Pa., recently reported at the online magazine Bolts.

BANS OFF OUR BODIES
PROTECT SAFE, LEGAL ABORTION
PROTECT SAFE, LEGAL ABORTION
Planned Parenthood

BRUCE SCHREINER Associated Press

ABORTION RIGHTS supporters protest at the Kentucky Capitol in April, when lawmakers debated whether to override the governor's veto of an abortion bill.

The amendment says that "the right to make healthcare decisions is reserved to the citizens of the state of Wyoming," and that "this state shall act to preserve these rights from undue governmental infringement."

In both states, judges took the constitutional verbiage for its plain meaning.

In blocking Wyoming's antiabortion law with a temporary restraining order last week, Teton County District Judge Melissa Owens reinforced a ruling she issued in August, finding that the law violated the constitutional provision that "unambiguously provides all competent Wyoming citizens with the right to make their own healthcare decisions."

She found that "a decision to have an abortion is a healthcare decision."

The Legislature tried to circumvent her ruling by enacting a second law declaring that "abortion … is not healthcare." Owens rejected that assertion and enjoined the new law, which was to take effect Sunday.

In the Ohio case, Judge Christian A. Jenkins issued a preliminary injunction in October blocking the antiabortion law as a violation of the Healthcare Freedom Act, which he found protects citizens' "liberty and personal autonomy" and applies to Ohioans' "right to make decisions about their own bodies — including the fundamental right to make a decision as private and central to a person's bodily integrity as the decision to have an abortion."

State officials are appealing Jenkins' ruling to the Ohio Supreme Court on procedural grounds. But it has been left standing in the meantime.

These cases are part of a movement by abortion rights advocates to use state laws and constitutional protections to fight antiabortion laws.

"The idea is that the U.S. Supreme Court's interpretation of rights under the U.S. Constitution acts as a floor, not a ceiling," says Rebecca Kendis, an expert on reproductive rights at Case Western School of Law in Cleveland and a member of the legal team challenging the Ohio antiabortion law.

Many state constitutional protections are more explicit and far-reaching than those in the U.S. Constitution, Kendis told me. Some have no counterpart in the U.S. Constitution, which can immunize them from U.S. Supreme Court decisions.

"There are certain provisions for religious freedom, due process, explicit language mentioning privacy," Kendis says. Every state constitution is unique, "warranting a push to look to our state constitutions as a source of strong individual protections."

These issues seldom came up before the Dobbs opinion because a federal right to abortion was guaranteed in the Supreme Court's 1973 decision in Roe vs. Wade.

Indeed, high courts in some of the reddest of red states have blocked antiabortion laws based on statutes that existed long before the court handed down its opinion in Dobbs vs. Jackson Women's Health Organization in June, invalidating Roe vs. Wade.

On March 21, the Oklahoma Supreme Court found 5 to 4 that the state Constitution "creates an inherent right of a pregnant woman to terminate a pregnancy when necessary to preserve her life."

That right was triggered "if at any point in the pregnancy … the woman's doctor determined that continuing the pregnancy … will endanger the woman's life due to the pregnancy itself or due to a medical condition that the woman is either currently suffering from or likely to suffer from during the pregnancy."

The judges objected to language in Oklahoma's post-Dobbs laws allowing abortions only when a woman is in "actual or present danger."

The majority observed, "We know of no other law that requires one to wait until there is an actual medical emergency in order to receive treatment when the harmful condition is known or probable to occur in the future."

On March 16, the North Dakota Supreme Court unanimously upheld an injunction against that state's antiabortion law, finding that it "unnecessarily restricts a woman's access to an abortion to preserve her life or health," citing language that had been in North Dakota law virtually since statehood.

The North Dakota abortion ban "criminalizes abortions performed even if the abortion is to preserve the life or health of the woman," the court observed, but only allows physicians charged with felonies to "prove by a preponderance of the evidence the abortion was necessary to save the life of the woman."

"This is not narrowly tailored to achieve the state's interests in women's health and protecting unborn human life," the court found.

But reproductive rights advocates know that even if they prevail in these skirmishes, the road to turning the clock back to the pre-Dobbs era will be long and may not ultimately yield victory. That's because court decisions on abortion rights are not about only the law.

"Our current Supreme Court is elected and predominantly made up of justices who campaigned against the right to abortion," says Freda Levenson, legal director of the ACLU of Ohio, which is participating in the legal challenge to that state's antiabortion law. "We know that as soon as they get their hands on the injunction that we won, they're going to reverse it."

That would reinstate the "heartbeat" ban in Ohio — a law that forbids abortions if a "heartbeat" is detected, typically as soon as six weeks into pregnancy and sometimes before a woman knows she is pregnant. Medical experts say that at that stage it's not even accurate to identify what's detected as a heartbeat, as the embryo has not developed a heart; rather, the "heartbeat" is merely electrical activity by a clump of cells that eventually may become a heart.

Abortion rights advocates are moving to place a constitutional amendment on Ohio's November ballot guaranteeing the right to abortion.

States have numerous ways to outlaw abortions that don't involve judgments about the life of the mother.

Ohio has enacted a passel of them, though most have also been blocked or suspended pending court rulings.

One requires abortion clinics to have transfer contracts for emergencies with hospitals within 50 miles. "Many clinics are not within 50 miles of a hospital, so this is a way of driving clinics out of business," Levenson says.

Another law, also currently blocked, requires the burial or cremation of fetal and embryonic tissue from surgical abortions, which the ACLU describes as a "terrible bill [that] creates horrific and unnecessary burdens on those seeking abortion care."

The state constitutional arguments "sound pretty convincing," Cohen says. "But as with a lot of things when it comes to abortion, this gets very political and gets intertwined with particular judges' views on abortion and healthcare. So there's no way to predict how this is going to go."

Hiltzik writes a blog on latimes.com. Follow him on Facebook or on Twitter @hiltzikm or email michael.hiltzik @latimes.com.

FOR THE RECORD

Damages awarded: An article in the March 20 Section A about the relationship between county doctors and medical device makers did not specify the type of damages awarded to Dr. Timothy Ryan in the lawsuit he brought against Los Angeles County. The jury awarded him $2.1 million for emotional distress damages, finding that his acts to stop his employer from filing a false insurance claim were a substantial motivating reason for the county to take adverse actions against him. Also, the article said patient Bernetta Higgins told The Times she did not complain of pain when she arrived at the hospital. A nurse testified, however, that her notes indicated Higgins did complain of chest pain when she arrived at the hospital.

Can Trump defy odds this time?

MARK Z. BARABAK

From the moment he blustered his way onto the political stage, Donald Trump defied expectations.

He won the White House despite lacking any government or military experience, a first in the nation's history. As a candidate and then as president, Trump drew supporters ever closer with his brash, impulsive and decidedly unpresidential behavior — not in spite of it.

When he was denied a second term, Trump failed to recede from politics, as his predecessors have. And now he's again broken ground — breaking things being a singular capability — as he faces the very real prospect of being the first ex-president ever criminally indicted.

For those reasons, it's foolhardy to predict the impact of Trump's legal tangle with Manhattan's prosecutor, the first of many potential prosecutions facing Trump.

He remains, for the moment, the favorite for the Republican presidential nomination and, if so anointed, stands at least a decent chance of reclaiming the White House in 2024.

There is a strong case to be made, however, that things have changed — that Trump's ability to defy political physics may have ended and his scot-free days are behind him.

In 2016, a Trump presidency was notional. He was perceived as an outsider, which many found compelling — a fist raised against Washington and a loud, uncouth voice speaking for the angry and aggrieved who felt they'd gone too long unheard and unheeded by the ruling class. Some reveled in his bombast and the way Trump blithely bulldozed political norms.

Others considered him better than the alternative, the shopworn Hillary Clinton, or made their peace by assuming that once in office, Trump would change — executing a much-anticipated but ultimately illusory "pivot" — and conduct a more conventional presidency.

Now voters know better.

After all the venomous tweets, the incessant lying, bigotry, narcissism and nepotism, the headstrong mismanagement of a deadly pandemic, after two impeachments and, most egregious, the attempted coup he suborned in the service of a lie he continues to promote, there is no doubting the nature of Trump.

Or what his return to the White House would mean.

Chaos envelops Trump like a bomb cyclone. Controversy trails him like the whiff off a cesspool. He warned of "potential death & destruction" if he were criminally charged, displaying once more his recklessness and titanic ego.

The prospect of indictment is a dramatic reminder, if one was needed, of the former president's essential mendacity and moral bankruptcy.

Polls show most Americans have tired of Trump, his wreckage and ruin.

Not those Fifth Avenue Republicans who constitute roughly a third of GOP voters, enough to boost Trump in the primary and make him the candidate to beat for the party's nomination. (Trump's famous statement that he could stand in the middle of Manhattan's Fifth Avenue and shoot somebody and not lose support now seems less a boast than a matter of fact.)

Those die-hards are the ones that pandering Republicans, like House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, seek to appease with their claims of Trump's political persecution and victimhood. Lawmakers representing areas like McCarthy's deep-red Bakersfield district have only that narrow slice of voters to consider.

But it's hard to see Trump gaining support beyond his base if he were indicted in a sordid case involving hush money and extramarital sex, whatever the outcome of the legal process.

And the notion that Trump's indictment would edge him closer to the White House by firing up supporters seems equally far-fetched; it's not as though the blindly faithful get to cast three or four extra votes for their flimflam messiah. (Despite the lies they might have swallowed about the corruptibility of our election system.)

Trump's repellent effect on swing voters and non-MAGA Republicans — especially women living in the nation's abundant suburbs — has been well proved.

It cost Republicans in 2018, when they lost control of the House; in 2020, when Joe Biden won the presidency; and in 2022, when the GOP, despite enormous advantages, failed to win a Senate majority and just barely reclaimed the House.

Christine Matthews, a Republican pollster and no fan of the ex-president, has conducted extensive research over the last several months among GOP primary voters, including some who supported Trump in 2016 and 2020.

"They're just tired of the circus," Matthews said.

They may think the many criminal investigations of Trump are "unfair to him," she went on. "They may think it's politically motivated. But the fact is the circus continues."

Perhaps most significant, something else has changed since Trump first browbeat his way to the White House and into the hearts of Republicans: He's now a certifiable, repeat loser.

"They want to win and they want to beat Biden," Matthews said of many of those she's surveyed. "They don't think Trump can do it."

It's easy, amid all the petulance and political machinations, to forget the essentials of the case against the former chief executive.

In 2006, Trump is alleged to have had an extramarital affair with the X-rated actor Stormy Daniels. Ten years later, his presidential bid was on the brink of collapse after the public release of a tape in which Trump is heard bragging of sexually mauling women.

His attorney and fixer at the time, Michael Cohen, took out a home equity loan and paid Daniels $130,000 to keep her mouth shut. Once in the White House, Trump signed checks reimbursing Cohen. The payments were listed as "legal expenses."

It may be a stretch to hold Trump legally accountable, given the shaky foundation on which the New York case rests.

But the court of public opinion is something else, and the case against Trump is open and shut. The closest he should ever come again to the Oval Office is the chair he used as president and brought with him to Mar-a-Lago.

Best to lock him up in his resort compound and pitch the key into the Atlantic Ocean.

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EU defends migrant-related aid to Libya

In report, U.N.-backed investigators say they believe support from bloc is used to catch and detain migrants.

By Lorne Cook

BRUSSELS — The European Union on Tuesday defended its work with migrants in Libya after U.N.-backed investigators accused the 27-nation bloc of abetting human rights abuses and other crimes in the largely lawless North African country.

Libya is a major departure point for people from northern Africa and elsewhere desperate enough to make the perilous Mediterranean Sea crossing in poorly maintained boats in search of better lives or sanctuary in Europe.

At least 529 migrants were reported dead and 848 others missing off Libya last year, according to the United Nations' International Organization for Migration, or IOM. More than 24,680 people were intercepted by the Libyan coast guard as they tried to leave.

Presenting a report on Monday by a U.N.-commissioned fact-finding mission to Libya, investigator Chaloka Beyani said that EU assistance to Libya's migration department and the coast guard "has aided and abetted the commission of the crimes," including crimes against humanity.

The report says migrants, some of whom might have been eligible for asylum, "were apprehended, detained, and disembarked in Libya solely to prevent their entry into Europe as a corollary of both European immigration policy and the economic agenda of migration in Libya via their subsequent detention and exploitation."

Chaloka Beyani
Mohamed Auajjar
Tracy Robinson

Salvatore Di Nolfi Keystone

MOHAMED AUAJJAR, flanked by fellow investigators Chaloka Beyani, left, and Tracy Robinson, addresses a news conference before presenting a report accusing the European Union of aiding migrant rights abuses.

The EU's executive branch, the European Commission, said it takes the allegations "very seriously" but insists that its work in Libya is vital and done in coordination with U.N. agencies such as the IOM and the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

"Not doing anything is not an answer. And our objective, our joint objective, is to help to improve the situation of the people stranded in Libya," commission spokesman Peter Stano said.

"Of course, there are incidents. There are issues which are a source of concern. We try to address them with the partners in Libya, with the international partners," Stano told reporters in Brussels. He said the EU's Libya mission had cooperated with the investigators.

The arrival in 2015 of well over 1 million people, many of them fleeing war in Syria, overwhelmed reception centers in Greece and Italy. It sparked one of the EU's biggest political crises.

Nations bickered over who should take responsibility for the migrants and whether they all should be obliged to help the EU countries that people entered. That dispute continues today. Members including Austria, Hungary and Slovenia erected razor-wire fences and other barriers.

The new report underscores that investigators believe the EU "directly or indirectly, provided monetary and technical support and equipment, such as boats, to the Libyan Coast Guard and the Directorate for Combating Illegal Migration," which were then used to catch and detain migrants.

But Stano rejected suggestions that the EU would pay to keep migrants in Libya.

"We are not financing any Libyan entity. We are not giving physical money to partners in Libya," he said. "What we are doing is allocating a lot of money, which is then usually used by our international partners. A lot goes through the U.N., for example."

This month, the commission confirmed that a new boat was recently handed over for coast guard duties in Libya. Two more new boats and an undisclosed number of refurbished ones will also be delivered.

At the same time, the EU has refurbished six other boats for Libya's General Administration of Coastal Security, which is separate from the coast guard. In February, Italy supplied two more fast boats to the coastal security administration. The commission said Tuesday that 142 Libyan coastal security officers have now received EU training.

Italy, where most people leaving Libya arrive, has received at least $16.3 million in EU money to fund migration and border control work there.

Last year, EU Home Affairs Commissioner Ylva Johansson told the European Parliament that "the EU has devoted around EUR 700 million [$760 million] to Libya during 2014-20, including EUR 59 million [$64 million]" for the coast guard and the coastal security administration.

Spanish EU lawmaker Sira Rego, from the Left group, said that "for years the EU has allowed slavery in refugee detention camps in Libya, has been aware of the atrocities being committed there against migrants, and yet has continued to implement racist migration policies."

In Greece, a voluntary program by EU members to accept unaccompanied migrant children who arrived in the country officially ended Tuesday, raising concerns over the future of such minors, given that long-delayed asylum reforms are still being hammered out.

EU lawmakers have finalized the parliament's negotiating position on the reforms and hope a deal can be reached before elections in May 2024.

Cook writes for the Associated Press.

Myanmar military panel orders Suu Kyi's party dissolved

The jailed ex-leader's National League for Democracy runs up against law targeting opposition groups.

Associated Press

BANGKOK — The political party led by Myanmar's ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi was ordered dissolved by the military-appointed election commission on Tuesday because it failed to register for a planned general election, state television station MRTV reported.

Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy, which has denounced the election as a sham, was one of 40 parties that failed to meet Tuesday's deadline for registration, MRTV said.

Critics say the still-unscheduled election will be neither free nor fair in a country that is ruled by the military and has shut down free media and arrested most of the leaders of Suu Kyi's party. The NLD won a landslide victory in the November 2020 election, only to have the army block all elected lawmakers from taking their seats in Parliament and seize power for itself, while detaining top members of Suu Kyi's government and party.

Aung Shine Oo Associated Press

AUNG SAN SUU KYI speaks to a crowd in 2020 when she was Myanmar's leader, before being ousted and imprisoned in a coup by the nation's military.

"We absolutely do not accept that an election will be held at a time when many political leaders and political activists have been arrested and the people are being tortured by the military," Bo Bo Oo, one of the elected lawmakers from Suu Kyi's party, said Tuesday.

Suu Kyi, 77, is serving prison sentences totaling 33 years after being convicted in a series of politically tainted prosecutions brought by the military. Her supporters say the charges were contrived to prevent her from participating in politics.

The army said it staged its 2021 takeover because of massive electoral fraud, though independent observers did not find major irregularities. Critics of Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, who led the takeover and now serves as Myanmar's leader, believe he acted because the vote thwarted his political ambitions.

The new election was initially expected to take place by the end of July, according to the army's plans. But in February, the military announced a six-month extension of its state of emergency, possibly delaying the vote, saying security could not be assured. The military does not control large swaths of the country, and it faces widespread armed resistance to its rule.

"Amid the state oppression following the 2021 coup, no election can be credible, especially when much of the population sees a vote as a cynical attempt to supplant the landslide victory of Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy in 2020," said a report issued Tuesday by the Brussels-based think tank International Crisis Group. "The polls will almost certainly intensify the post-coup conflict, as the regime seeks to force them through and resistance groups seek to disrupt them."

The military government in January enacted a political party registration law that makes it difficult for opposition groups to mount a serious challenge to the army's favored candidates. The law sets conditions such as minimum levels of membership, candidates and offices that would be difficult to meet for any party that lacks the backing of the army and its cronies.

The new law declared that existing parties had to reapply with the election commission within 60 days — by March 28 — and those that failed to do so would be "automatically invalidated" and considered dissolved. Parties have to entrust their properties to the government if they are dissolved by their own choice or if their registrations are canceled under the law.

The National League for Democracy rejected the law, saying the military-planned elections are illegal and a "sham." It declared that any individuals and entities cooperating with the military in the polls will be deemed accomplices in committing high treason.

Bo Bo Oo said a March 21 meeting of the party's Central Working Committee reaffirmed the decision not to register.

There were more than 90 registered parties in the 2020 general election. MRTV said 63 applied to the election commission for registration this year: 12 at the national level and 51 at regional or state levels. The commission must still approve the applications.

The National League for Democracy was founded in 1988, in the wake of a failed uprising against military rule, and won a 1990 general election that was invalidated by military rulers in Myanmar, also known as Burma. The party was technically banned after it boycotted a 2010 election held under military auspices but was allowed to register when it agreed to run in 2011. It took power after a landslide victory in the 2015 election.

Taiwan ex-leader visits tomb of modern China's founder

Associated Press

NANJING, China — Former Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou began a 12-day tour of China with a symbolism-laden visit to the mausoleum where the founding father of both China and Taiwan is entombed.

Ma visited the Sun Yat-sen Mausoleum in Nanjing, the Chinese capital when Ma's Nationalist Party, or Kuomintang, ruled China in the early part of the 20th century.

The party claimed to be the legitimate ruler of China for decades, after fleeing to Taiwan while the Communists assumed power on the mainland, and is seen as more sympathetic to integration or unification with the mainland than Taiwan's current ruling Democratic People's Party.

Ma paid tribute to Sun, the founder of the Republic of China and the Kuomintang, giving a short speech and then bowing in front of the memorial on Tuesday.

Office of Ma Ying-jeou

TAIWAN'S Ma Ying-jeou, center, pays tribute to Sun Yat-sen in Nanjing during his 12-day tour of China.

"The people of both sides of the Taiwan Strait belong to the Chinese nation, are children of Yandi and the Yellow Emperor," he told a group of Chinese and Taiwanese reporters who had been allowed to follow him on the trip, referring to mythical emperors revered as founders of China's dominant Han ethnicity.

Ma's tour comes as tensions between Taiwan and China rise, aggravated by an antagonistic U.S.-China relationship. Taiwan is today a self-governed democracy, and the U.S. is its largest unofficial ally. China claims the island as its own.

The visit by Ma comes a few days after the government in Taipei lost yet another diplomatic ally to Beijing, which has spent the last seven years pressuring countries to switch diplomatic recognition from Taiwan to China.

He has framed the trip as an effort to lower tensions by promoting exchanges, and has brought Taiwanese college students with him. Observers expect the visit to be more symbolic than substantive.

"Both sides must pursue peace. Otherwise, neither will have a future," he said of China and Taiwan.

Ma praised Sun, who advocated for a modern Chinese nation and the overthrow of the Manchu Qing Dynasty. It was Sun who founded the Republic of China in 1912 and ruled over the mainland, very briefly.

After the retreat to Taiwan, the Kuomintang continued to call the nation the Republic of China. Meanwhile, the Communist Party took over the mainland in 1949 and renamed the country the People's Republic of China.

Outside the mausoleum, a crowd of curious onlookers and tourists gathered in the morning to see whether they could catch a glimpse of the former Taiwanese leader.

Most of the regular tourists expecting to be able to see the mausoleum and the surrounding park found themselves blocked from entering, though a few who had reserved in advance were allowed into the site.

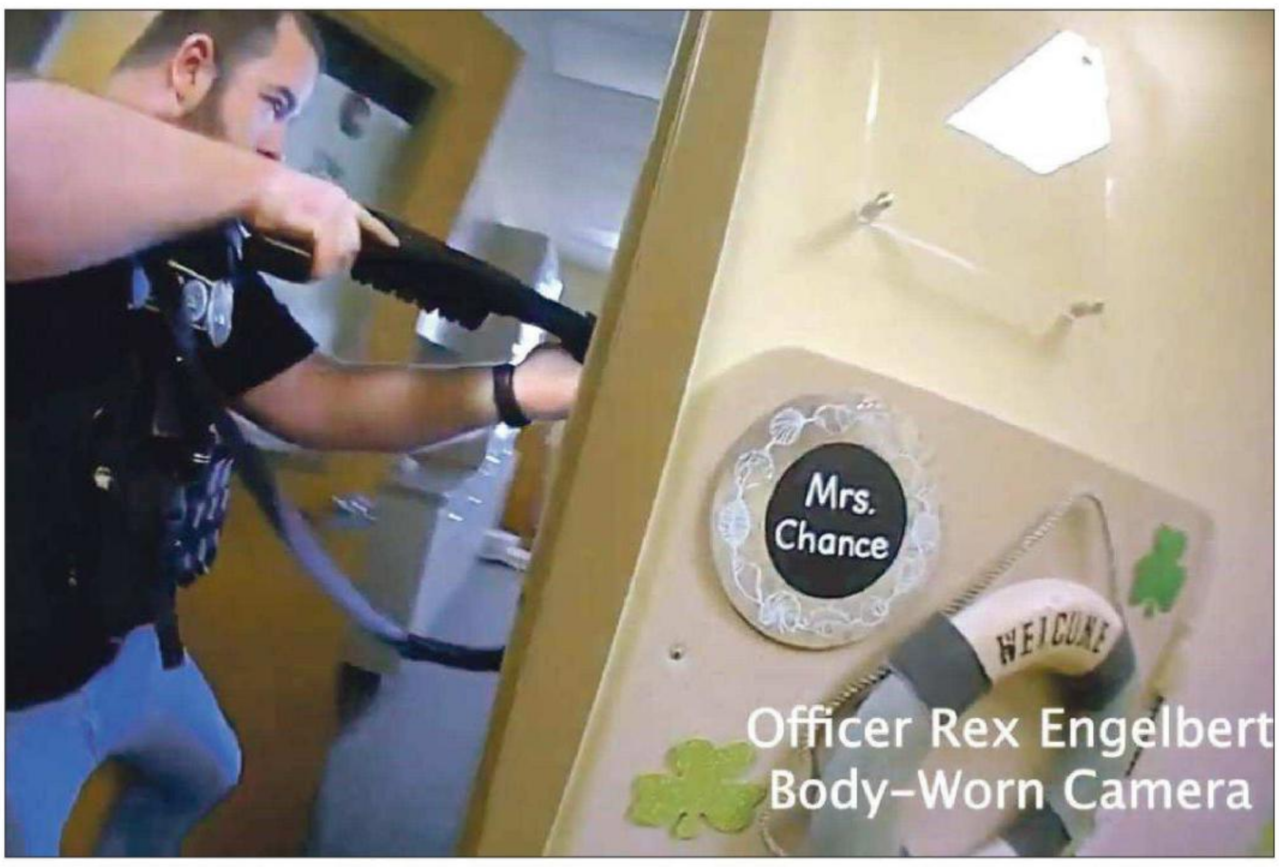
"Even though there are some difficulties on the official front, as long as there are benefits to the public and you can build a good foundation, then this will be good for the unification of both sides," said Chen Shaoan, who had come to the mausoleum to see Ma.

Ma is also visiting the China Modern History Museum, which is the site of the old presidential palace in Nanjing.

New details in Nashville mass shooting

Assailant who killed 6 was 'under doctor's care,' legally bought guns, police say.

By Alexandra E. Petri and Terry Castleman



Metropolitan Nashville Police Department

A BODY-CAMERA video image of police responding to the Covenant School shooting in Nashville. The shooter had legally purchased seven firearms from five gun stores, three of which were used in the attack, police say.

New details have emerged from Monday's shooting in Nashville that left three children and three adults dead when an assailant targeted a Christian school, making it the latest American community to be rocked by the despair and trauma of gun violence. Police are searching for a motive.

At a news conference Tuesday, Metropolitan Nashville Police Chief John Drake said authorities learned through interviews with the assailant's parents that the shooter had legally purchased seven firearms from five local gun stores. Three were used in the attack at the Covenant School, Drake said.

The parents said the shooter, whom authorities identified as 28-year-old former student Audrey Hale, was "under doctor's care for emotional disorder," Drake said. "Law enforcement knew nothing about the treatment [the shooter] was receiving, but the parents felt [the shooter] should not own weapons."

Drake said the assailant's parents believed that the shooter had sold their only weapon and were unaware other weapons were hidden within the home.

The attacker left their parents' home on Monday carrying a red bag and dismissed questions about what was inside, Drake said.

The shooter's mother told police that because she didn't know her child had additional firearms, she "didn't think any differently."

"If it had been reported that [the shooter] was suicidal or ... was going to kill someone, had that been made known to us, then we would have tried to get those weapons," Drake said. He did not explain what that would entail or how that might work legally.

According to Everytown for Gun Safety, a gun violence prevention organization, Tennessee does not have an extreme-risk law, also known as a "red flag" law, which allows law enforcement and family members to petition for a court order to temporarily prevent someone in crisis from accessing guns.

It does have a law that prohibits gun possession by people who have been involuntarily committed or are found to be a danger to themselves or others, but the bar for that is incredibly high, said Jonathan Metzl, the director of the Department of Medicine, Health and Society at Vanderbilt University and an expert on gun violence and mental illness.

Police used female pronouns to refer to the attacker, whom they previously said identified as transgender. Kristin Mumford, a public affairs officer with the Metro Nashville Police Department, said the attacker was "assigned female at birth" but the agency was "also aware of social media profiles in which the shooter used male pronouns." A LinkedIn profile under the shooter's name that has since been taken down listed he/him pronouns.

On Tuesday, police released body-camera video from two of the officers who responded to the shooting.

The assailant was fatally shot by officers in an encounter that was captured on the video. It shows that within about 3 minutes and 20 seconds of parking at the school, officers located and killed the shooter.

The entire incident lasted about 14 minutes, with the first call coming in at 10:13 a.m. and officers engaging the shooter at 10:27 a.m., Drake said. He commended officers' response, saying it was "really quick."

"They heard gunfire and immediately ran to that and then took care of this awful situation," Drake said.

In one body-camera video, worn by Officer Rex Engelbert, officers arrive at the Covenant School and are met outside by an employee.

"The kids are all locked down, but we have two that we don't know where they are," the employee tells Engelbert. She also tells him that someone "fired into my window" and that "they are upstairs," pointing toward the school's second floor.

Another employee hands Engelbert keys to the building as the first employee tells officers gunshots were heard in Fellowship Hall, at the end of the ground floor. "Upstairs, there are a bunch of kids," the first employee says.

The video then shows several officers clearing the hallway and various rooms on the ground floor before running to the second floor. Fire alarms ring through an otherwise empty hallway decorated with student artwork and St. Patrick's Day projects.

Volleys of gunfire can be heard as officers dash up to the second floor, where they meet additional officers. The pops of gunfire grow louder as police rush toward the noise and around the corner to a common area near a second-floor window. There's the sound of broken glass, which police said came from the attacker shooting at police cars arriving on campus, and Engelbert, armed with a rifle, opens fire on the assailant.

Officer Michael Collazo fires four more shots as he and another officer approach the assailant and yell at them to stop moving and get their hands away from the gun. The video blurs out the shooter's face and body on the floor.

Police also released Collazo's body-camera video, which shows several officers who rush to the second floor and find the door locked. They make their way through the ground floor, clearing the building as they go, until they reach the second floor and hear the crack of gunshots.

"Shots fired, shots fired, move!" Collazo orders. It's on the second floor where Collazo regroups with Engelbert, and the two officers fire the shots that kill the shooter.

Drake said he was not sure whether Engelbert, a four-year veteran, or Collazo, who had nine years on the force and worked as a paramedic on the SWAT team, had been in similar situations previously.

"I was really impressed, with all that was going on, the danger, that somebody took control, and said let's go, let's go, let's go," Drake said. The responding officers are now "trying to decompress, trying to make sense of all this," he added.

The shooter had "multiple rounds of ammunition," was "prepared for confrontation with law enforcement," and was believed to have acted alone, Drake said.

Surveillance video released by Nashville police Monday night shows the assailant driving to the campus in what police said was a Honda Fit.

At around 10:11 a.m., the attacker, whom police said was armed with assault-style weapons, shoots through a set of glass doors and ducks through them to enter the building. The footage then shows the shooter prowling the empty halls with a weapon drawn.

The police identified the three children killed in the attack as Evelyn Dieckhaus, Hallie Scruggs and William Kinney, all age 9; and the three adults as head of school Katherine Koonce, 60; Cynthia Peak, 61, a substitute teacher; and Mike Hill, 61, a custodian. Drake said the shooter "randomly targeted" the six victims.

The victims were found in different locations, Drake said. He added that Koonce seemed to have been alone in the hallway when she encountered the shooter. Body-camera footage shows a blurred-out body in a second-floor hallway as officers rush through the building.

Hill was hit by a shot when the attacker "sprayed rounds" of bullets through the glass doors to enter the building, Drake said.

Brittany Hill, who identified herself as Mike Hill's daughter, posted a statement Monday on Facebook.

"Today my dad lost his life at The Covenant School/Church," Hill wrote. "I have watched school shootings happen over the years and never thought I would lose a loved one over a person trying to solve a temporary problem with a permanent solution."

Hallie Scruggs, daughter of Covenant Pastor Chad Scruggs, was remembered as "the spirited little sister with a bunch of big brothers" in a GoFundMe page set up by family friends to cover funeral and other expenses. "Her adventurous, spunky spirit was adored by all who knew her," the page said.

Katherine Koonce was described as "a beacon of light, a faithful servant" by her niece Heather Benge in a Facebook post. "I have no doubt she was doing everything she could to protect her students — precious children," Benge wrote.

The carnage at the small private school in Nashville added to the escalating toll of gun violence across America as familiar debates on gun regulation played out.

According to the Gun Violence Archive — an independent online database that tracks gun violence using police, government, media and other public data — there have been 130 mass shootings in the U.S. this year, including Monday's massacre in Nashville.

The organization defines a mass shooting as a minimum of four people shot — either injured or killed — not including any shooter who may also have been killed or injured.

President Biden addressed the Nashville shooting at an event Tuesday in Durham, N.C., a day after he once again urged Congress to pass the assault weapons ban.

"We owe these families more than our prayers. We owe them action," Biden said.

Times staff writer Kevin Rector contributed to this report.

WATER IS LIFE
SHUT RED HILL
CLEAN WATER IS
NATIONAL SECURITY
permanently
SHUTDOWN RED HILL!
NAVY
LIES
with words but with actions and truth.

Audrey McAvoy Associated Press

PROTESTERS hold signs outside the gate at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, in September. In 2021, jet fuel spilled from a drain line into a well.

Three members of military file claim over tainted water

The pre-lawsuit move, a first for active-duty personnel, stems from jet fuel contamination.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

HONOLULU — A Navy sailor, an Army colonel and an Army major are the first active-duty military members taking the initial step toward suing the U.S. government over jet fuel that contaminated drinking water in Hawaii.

Navy Ensign Koda Freeman, Army Col. Jessica Whaley and Army Maj. Amanda Feindt filed pre-litigation claim forms with the Navy late Monday, which will allow them to later file a federal lawsuit in Honolulu, their attorneys said.

In 2021, jet fuel spilled from a drain line at the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility, flowed into a drinking-water well and then into the Navy's water system serving 93,000 people in and around Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Nearly 6,000 sought medical attention, complaining of ailments such as nausea, headaches and sores. The military put about 4,000 families in hotels for several months.

The Hawaii Department of Health ordered the Navy to close the facility after the spill, which also contaminated the ground beneath the tanks and threatened the health of an aquifer that provides water to 400,000 people in Honolulu.

A separate lawsuit was filed on behalf of more than 100 civilians. Their attorneys say they expect to add thousands of others to the lawsuit.

A doctrine typically bars service members from making claims while in the line of duty. But in the claims, their attorneys said their injuries at home, "during non-duty hours, were not 'incident to service,' and the United States is liable for them."

The Navy declined to comment on the filing.

Hearing ordered in 'Serial' case

Court backs a victim's relative who couldn't attend session. Adnan Syed can remain free.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — A Maryland court did not give the family of the murder victim in the case chronicled in the hit podcast "Serial" enough time to attend a court hearing that led to Adnan Syed's release, a Maryland appellate court ruled Tuesday, and it ordered a new hearing to be held.

Though Syed's conviction has been reinstated, he will not be taken back into custody.

In a 2-1 decision, the Appellate Court of Maryland ruled the state's law provides victims with the right to prior notice of the hearing on a motion to vacate convictions, and that right was violated in the case of the family of Hae Min Lee, Syed's ex-girlfriend and high school classmate who died more than two decades ago.

The court ruled that giving her brother, Young Lee, only one business day before the hearing was "insufficient time to reasonably allow Mr. Lee, who lived in California, to attend the hearing in person," and required him to attend the hearing remotely.

"Allowing a victim entitled to attend a court proceeding to attend in person, when the victim makes that request and all other persons involved in the hearing appear in person, is consistent with the constitutional requirement that victims be treated with dignity and respect," the court ruled.

The court ruled it is obligated to remedy the lower court's violations, "as long we can do so without violating Mr. Syed's right to be free from double jeopardy."

"We can do that, and accordingly, we vacate the circuit court's order vacating Mr. Syed's convictions, which results in the reinstatement of the original convictions and sentence," the ruling said.

"We remand for a new, legally compliant, and transparent hearing on the motion to vacate, where Mr. Lee is given notice of the hearing that is sufficient to allow him to attend in person, evidence supporting the motion to vacate is presented, and the court states its reasons in support of its decision."

The family had asked the court for a redo of the September hearing that led to Syed's release.

No Trump indictment vote is set

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — The Manhattan grand jury that has been hearing testimony about hush money allegedly paid on Donald Trump's behalf will not take up that inquiry again this week, meaning any potential vote on an indictment won't happen until next week at the earliest, two people familiar with the matter said Tuesday.

The panel did convene on Monday, and a longtime Trump friend and potential key witness in the investigation was seen leaving the building where the grand jury has been meeting.

The grand jury has been meeting regularly on Monday and Wednesday afternoons, but did not hold last Wednesday's session and met last Thursday for other unrelated matters.

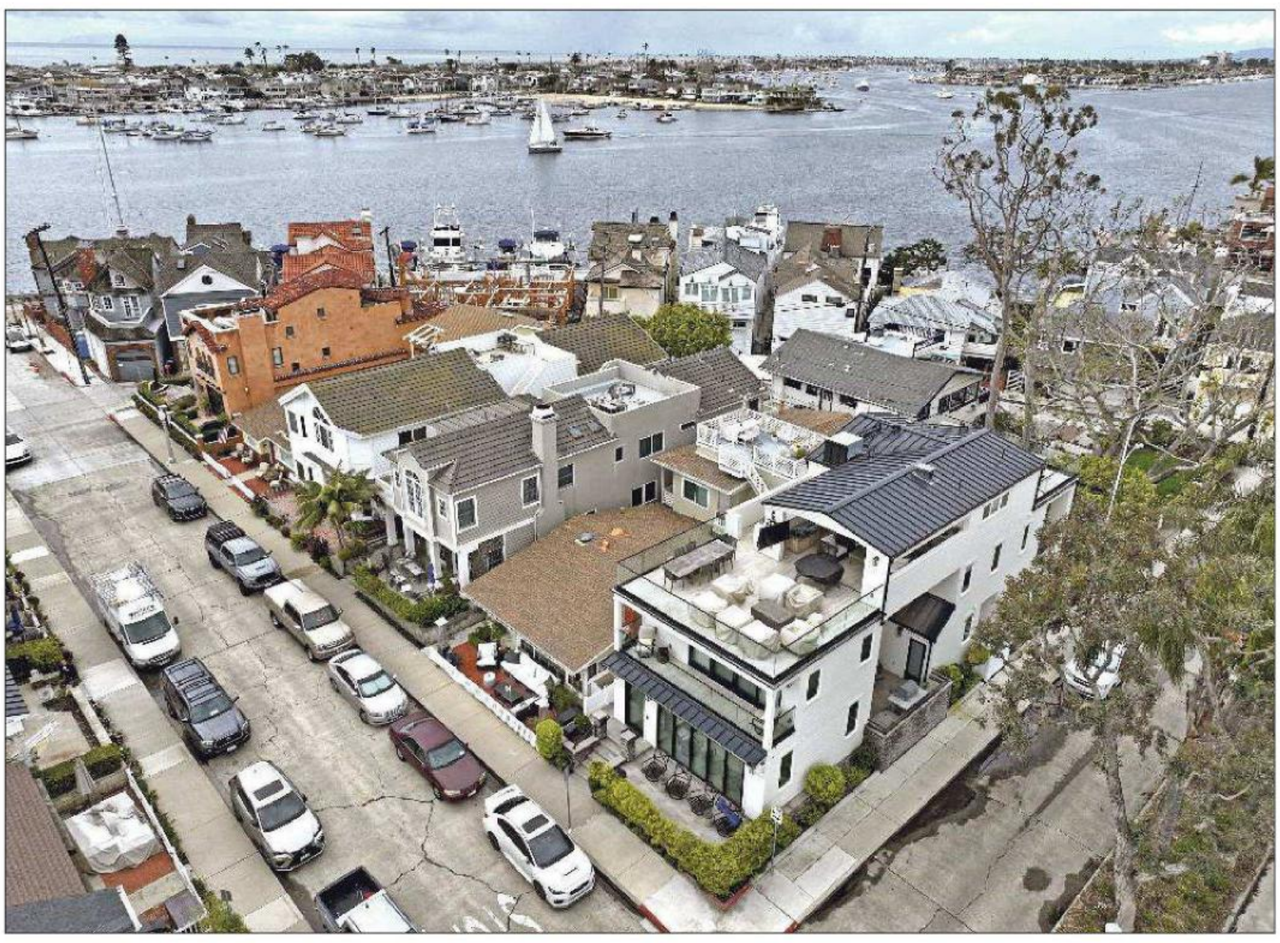
Trump himself has ratcheted up anticipation that an indictment could be near by posting on his social media platform that he expected to be arrested imminently. His representatives later said that they had not received any such indication on timing from prosecutors.

The Manhattan district attorney's office, which is leading the investigation, has taken several steps seen as signaling that it could be close to wrapping up, including inviting Trump to testify.

Still, the exact status of the probe remained unclear, and it's possible that the schedule could be complicated by the Passover holiday next week.

The people who confirmed that no additional action related to Trump was expected this week were not authorized to speak publicly about secretive grand jury proceedings and did so on condition of anonymity.

Fractional ownership mobilizes residents



ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

A VIEW of a home under fractional ownership, right. Balboa Island residents are pressing to regulate the purchase model, raising the same concerns about noise and trash levied against short-term rentals.

[**Fractional,** from A1] homeownership, in which multiple people, often strangers, own a small share of a luxury single-family home that they use as a vacation property. It's a twist on timeshares that, as many locals see it, plays to wealthy out-of-towners looking for a place to party rather than live.

"It doesn't fit in this community at all," said Artyn Gardner, 71. "I guess if you were in a resort area where everybody was turning over, like a timeshare in a Marriott on the beach somewhere, maybe it would fit there. But that's not Balboa Island. It's just not why we live here."

The concept of co-owning vacation properties has been around for decades, with shared ownership of cookie-cutter condos and town homes a common practice at sprawling hotel resorts. What's happening in Newport Beach and other destination cities is a modern offshoot that gained speed during the pandemic: People penned up at home sought the safety and reliability of a consistent travel destination — except instead of buying time at a resort property, they buy a fraction of a single-family home in an established residential neighborhood.

As the practice has accelerated, homeowners have started to mobilize, raising the same concerns about noise and trash that have been levied in calls to regulate Airbnb-style short-term rentals. They paint fractional ownership as just one more scheme for converting neighborhood homes into vacation carousels for rich people who flit in and out with no real stake in a community.

In California, much of that ire focuses on Pacaso, a San Francisco-based startup founded in 2020 that has refined the concept into a lucrative business model. Pacaso specializes in luxury second homes, buying single-family houses in select communities across the U.S. In California, that includes coastal enclaves like Newport Beach and Carmel, idyllic wine country settings like Sonoma Valley and posh resort towns like Palm Springs.

Pacaso sets up a limited liability corporation to buy a property, then divides the LLC into eight ownership shares that it sells on its website. Buying one share in a home entitles a co-owner to 44 nights a year, with each visit limited to two weeks. Buying additional shares equates to more stays. For a monthly fee, Pacaso manages the booking logistics, cleaning and maintenance.

On a video on the company's website, co-founder Austin Allison says he was inspired to start Pacaso after he and his wife bought their second home in Lake Tahoe. He lays out a lofty vision for "making the dream of second-home ownership possible for more people." And he likens the company's creative aspirations to those of artist Pablo Picasso, whose Cubism, he says, brought together "individual elements to create a more beautiful collective whole."

Fred Levine is among the longtime Newport Beach residents who say they aren't buying the egalitarian spiel.

Levine, who moved to the Balboa Peninsula three decades ago, said allowing fractional homeownership to proliferate would be as disruptive as short-term rentals.

"Come down and visit, but when you have businesses come in, it can really mess up a whole neighborhood," Levine said. "I've lived next to short-term rentals, and it's an absolute horror story. It's not quiet and peaceful and cookies and bubblegum and walking their dog. That's not what really happens."

On Balboa Island, the Gardners now sit just across the street from a Pacaso home. The four-bedroom, 4 ½-bath contemporary Cape Cod-style home is listed on Pacaso's website at $940,000 for a one-eighth share. The home has a rooftop deck with a whirlpool bath.

While paying close to a million dollars for a one-eighth share of a home might seem steep, it can offer access to a neighborhood where similarly styled homes — sold traditional style — hit the market at upward of $4 million.

Max Gardner, 71, said that when he first heard his neighbor had sold to Pacaso, he was circumspect but open to getting to know the new residents. On their street — Emerald Avenue — the neighbors are so tightknit they meet for weekly outdoor happy hours and travel on group vacations. They call themselves "the Emeralds."

But he said it wasn't long before the disruptions started. As the Gardners tell it, one co-owner crashed a golf cart and another threw a raucous party that kept the neighborhood awake into the early morning hours. When a frustrated neighbor called police, the co-owner was incensed. After the cops left, he stood shirtless on his rooftop deck and screamed a message to his new neighbors:

"I'm gonna find out who called the cops, and I'm gonna f— them," Gardner recalled.

That owner eventually sold his shares in the home after neighbors complained and had meetings with Pacaso representatives. But, Gardner said, the situation took time and was "like pulling teeth."

He's had a better experience with some of the other co-owners but said connecting as neighbors has proved challenging. "We've had a couple of them over for a glass of wine, because we want them to be part of the community," he said. "But it's really hard to get to know them when they're only here two or three weeks a year."

Across the state, city leaders, initially caught off guard, are rushing to regulate the business model.

Officials in Palm Springs and Monterey County have sent cease-and-desist letters to Pacaso, directing the company to stop advertising and selling fractional ownership in certain areas, arguing that it's just a fancy form of timeshare and should adhere to the same restrictions. Carmel, Sonoma and St. Helena are moving to limit or ban Pacaso's operation.

In Beverly Hills, planning commissioners this month expressed support for an ordinance that would prohibit fractional ownership in the city.

In Newport Beach, the City Council devoted a March 14 hearing to the issue, debating whether to expand an existing ordinance that prohibits timeshares in residential zones to also encompass fractional ownership properties. The move, if approved by city leaders and the California Coastal Commission, would effectively ban Pacaso from acquiring new homes across much of the city. It's not clear how the ordinance would affect the dozen or so homes Pacaso already manages in Newport Beach.

"If it acts like a timeshare," said Councilman Joe Stapleton, who represents the Balboa Peninsula, "we should probably regulate it like a timeshare."

As opposition has mounted, Pacaso has stood its ground. After St. Helena signaled it was considering banning Pacaso, the company sued, arguing in court records that the "dishonest campaign" was rooted in snobbery.

The city has "sought to preclude Pacaso and its homeowners from enjoying the benefits of secondary home ownership in St. Helena — a privilege that they have sought to reserve only for those in the upper echelon of financial status. Sadly, this is just the latest chapter in a long history of improper attempts by the city to exclude outsiders from the community," the company said in its legal filings.

Pacaso maintains that its model does not equate to a timeshare, which generally involves multiple people paying to secure specific days or weeks at a property without owning anything. The co-owners of the properties they manage, the company argues, have a financial stake in the home and should have the same rights as other neighborhood residents.

"Co-ownership has been used by friends, families and individuals to own real estate for generations," Chrissy Bruchey, a Pacaso spokesperson said in a statement. "Many existing homes within Newport Beach are co-owned through a multi-owner arrangement like an LLC or trust, no different than how Pacaso homeowners own their homes."

Dick Ragatz, president of the market research firm Ragatz Associates, tracks the resort real estate industry. He said fractional homeownership is attracting buyers who want to purchase in luxury markets but who might not have the cash or desire to shell out for the full price of a home that would likely sit empty most of the year. The typical buyer is "high-income and well-educated," Ragatz said.

Scott Hansen, who owns a quarter interest in a Pacaso home on Ocean Boulevard in Corona del Mar, echoed that sentiment in a letter to the Newport Beach City Council defending the fractional ownership model. He said what appealed to him most about shared ownership was that the house wouldn't sit empty. He said his family, which lives outside Sacramento, also has a second home in Lake Tahoe that isn't used often.

"Limiting home ownership to only those who purchase 100% of the home would be a tremendous mistake," he wrote. "Businesses benefit from having homes that people reside in as opposed to empty homes."

But for many others who lined up to address city leaders at the March 14 hearing, the concern was not what's good for business — but what makes for good neighborhoods.

When Gardner took his turn at the podium inside the packed council chambers, he urged officials to also consider regulations for existing Pacaso homes that he figures will be grandfathered in if the city moves to prohibit new fractional homeownership.

"There are very nice people who live in the Pacaso house now," he told the council. "I could tell you some war stories about ones who have been there before."

UC plan aims to smooth pathway for transfers

WELCOME TO
UC
LA

CHRISTINA HOUSE Los Angeles Times

THE LEGISLATIVE Analyst's Office noted that UCLA enrolls more transfer students than any other UC campus and graduates them at higher rates.

[**Transfer,** from A1] 89% graduate — a rate slightly higher than those who start as first-year students and significantly higher than the 55% national average, according to UC data. One-third of UC undergraduates are transfer students.

But in the last few years of pandemic turmoil, UC and CSU have struggled with declining transfer applications as community college enrollments have plunged.

UC transfer applications have fallen at every campus, declining systemwide to 39,363 for fall 2023 from 46,155 for fall 2021. Even UCLA, the nation's most applied-to campus, saw a drop to 23,954 from 28,440 during that same period. Last year, UCLA increased the number of transfer applicants offered admission and was ultimately able to enroll more of them for fall 2022.

The UC systemwide plan countered Gov. Gavin Newsom's directive in his proposed 2023-24 budget that called on UCLA to adopt a transfer guarantee program or face a $20-million cut in state funding.

Last month, the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office recommended rejection of Newsom's plan, noting that UCLA enrolls more transfer students than any other UC campus and graduates them at higher rates.

The LAO called Newsom's directive unfair and "particularly myopic" by singling out one campus and linking funding for it to a narrow set of outcomes.

But not everyone embraced the UC proposal, favoring instead a single transfer pathway that community college students could complete for admission to either UC or CSU. Some have pushed UC to extend an admission guarantee to those who complete a community college associate degree for transfer.

Cal State admits all students who earn that two-year degree and meet minimum GPA requirements, but guarantees admission only to the system, not to specific campuses.

"California must demystify the transfer pathway for students. While we appreciate University of California leadership for their openness to a long overdue systemwide transfer guarantee, the newly proposed UC transfer pathway only adds to the complexity and confusion around transfer," said Michele Siqueiros, president of the Campaign for College Opportunity.

Assemblyman Kevin McCarty (D-Sacramento), who chairs the Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Education Finance, also has pushed for a single pathway — and suggested that UC's reluctance to adopt the same requirements as CSU was a "turf battle."

McCarty said that students have suffered from the long wait for a simplified transfer pathway to UC. "What's the solution? Maybe it's called ADT," he said, referring to the state community college system's two-year transfer degree.

UC academic leaders, however, say the issue is not turf but the differences in what UC and CSU require for their majors.

A CSU math major, for instance, requires linear algebra or differential equations. But UC requires both, plus a full-year sequence in the sciences. UC requires calculus for a business degree; CSU does not.

It's unclear how much difference a systemwide transfer admission guarantee would actually make.

Six of the nine UC undergraduate campuses already offer transfer guarantee programs, and most omit certain majors from the program due to the high number of applicants for limited seats.

UC Davis, for instance, excludes its new major in data science. UC Irvine omits art, business administration, dance, music, nursing science and all majors in the Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences. The Irvine campus does offer the guarantee for other popular majors, such as biological sciences and psychological sciences.

Systemwide, 13,031 of 46,155 prospective transfer students applied for fall 2021 through the guaranteed admission program.

In a memo presented to regents last month, UC said its top priorities include doubling the number of students with transfer admission guarantees, increasing those from underrepresented backgrounds and strengthening transfer support services, particularly in the Central Valley and Inland Empire.

While the new proposal would include UCLA, UC Berkeley and UC San Diego in the transfer guarantee program for the first time, no campus would be required to accept more students than it has room for. In practice, that would ultimately mean the most selective campuses would raise their minimum required GPAs if flooded with new applications.

Competition for seats — and the stress that causes high school students today — already is a huge problem, legislators said at the hearing.

Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi (D-Rolling Hills Estates) related how his daughter is now preparing for high school and the data show that students at that campus aspiring for admission to UCLA and UC Berkeley need GPAs of 4.6 or 4.7 — requiring them not only to ace virtually every class but also to take a slew of Advanced Placement and honors classes.

"That is the kind of pressure students are putting on themselves," Muratsuchi said, adding that UC officials seem "out of touch with the dreams and aspirations of kids who are trying to go to a dream school."

He chastised UC officials for falling short of enrollment growth targets for fall 2023 and for continuing to enroll so many international and out-of-state students. UC had pledged to increase the number of all full-time students by 7,632 for fall 2023 but instead expects to enroll only an additional 4,197.

UC said it would make up the shortfall with larger enrollment increases in the next few years.

UC officials explained that they will probably miss their target primarily because of the decline in transfer student applicants. But community college campuses are starting to see a rebound, with students increasing credits and moving back toward pre-pandemic behavior, officials said.

Legislators said they would review the state policy that sets UC targets at one transfer student for every two first-year students who are enrolled. If transfer students are declining, Muratsuchi said, perhaps the number of first-year students can be increased.

"This is the No. 1 priority of this subcommittee … to fight for more California kids to get in," Muratsuchi said.

BUSINESS

Disney shows and tells Storyliving in desert

Officials reveal more details about Cotino community in Rancho Mirage, including an 'Incredibles' house.

By Luke Money

The House of Mouse? Think a whole lot bigger.

Officials on Friday released fresh details about the first Storyliving by Disney project, an ambitious effort in Riverside County to infuse a master-planned community with the Burbank entertainment giant's trademark whimsy and wonder.

Among the newly unveiled features of the in-the-works Cotino community is the "Parr House" — a gathering space inspired in name, design and decor by the midcentury-style home of the superhero family in the Disney and Pixar film "Incredibles 2."

Along with a main entertaining room featuring an indoor-outdoor rock fireplace, the Parr House will include an art studio, kitchen, dining room, boardroom and five bedrooms.

It will also have an elevated patio featuring views of the nearby mountains, as well as the community's 24-acre "grand oasis."

Access to the Parr House, as well as other community features, such as a designated beach area and certain events and activities, will be open to those who opt to purchase membership in what Storyliving by Disney calls the Artisan Club.

Walt Disney Imagineering

A RENDERING of Cotino, the first Storyliving by Disney master-planned community, which will be built in Rancho Mirage. The project's features will include a public beach park and about 1,930 residential units.

"From Disney entertainment and events to spaces inspired by Disney stories, club members will truly experience Disney story living," Claire Bilby, senior vice president and general manager of Disney Signature Experiences Emerging Businesses, said in a statement.

Club membership will be open to Cotino residents and nonresidents.

"A professionally managed public beach park will be accessible to local area residents and visitors to the Greater Palm Springs area with the purchase of a day pass," the company said in a statement.

Cotino is being built on 618 acres in the city of Rancho Mirage, near where Walt Disney Co.'s namesake founder once owned a home.

"Walt Disney was so inspired by this place — he called it his 'laughing place,' " Amy Young, a Walt Disney Imagineering creative director, said in a video posted to the Disney Parks YouTube channel. "In a sense, we're following Walt's footsteps here. The same things that inspired him years ago, they inspire us today. The area has this real energy to it, and you can see why Walt loved it."

For the project, Disney is collaborating with Arizona-based DMB Development, which specializes in planned communities.

Cotino will ultimately include about 1,930 residential units. Sales are anticipated to begin this year, with the first homes expected to be complete in 2024.

Various home types will be available, including estates, single-family homes and condominiums. At least one section of the development will be designated for residents age 55 or older.

"Storyliving by Disney master-planned communities are intended to inspire residents to foster new friendships, pursue their interests and write the next exciting chapter in their lives," the company said.

Other locations are being explored for potential projects, but no details have yet been announced.

Disney, like many of its competitors, has faced pressure to rein in costs — particularly in the increasingly crowded streaming arena. Along with Disney+, the company owns ESPN+ and two-thirds of Hulu.

The company's chief executive, Bob Iger, on Monday provided more details of his plan to cut 7,000 jobs as part of a wider effort to rejuvenate its finances and reach profitability in its streaming business.

According to people familiar with the matter, the layoffs are spread throughout the company, affecting roles in the units formerly known as Disney General Entertainment and Disney Media and Entertainment Distribution, as well as corporate positions and jobs in the theme parks, experiences and consumer products business.

Times staff writer Ryan Faughnder contributed to this report.

Investment fund follows playbook of Angel City FC

Soccer team proved that women's sports are good business. Monarch looks to score big in that field.

By Samantha Masunaga

Los Angeles venture capitalist Kara Nortman spent eight years researching what she saw as a massive missed opportunity — investing in women's sports.

Her research led to her involvement with L.A.'s Angel City Football Club, of which Nortman is a co-founder, and now, to a new sports fund called Monarch Collective with investors that include tennis legend Billie Jean King.

The $100-million fund led by Nortman and Miami venture capitalist Jasmine Robinson is focused on investing in women's sports teams, leagues and related revenue streams, such as media. The idea is to prove that more funding for women's sports will drive greater returns on investment and spur additional financing.

"This is sort of a joyful way to get people to pay attention to DEI and to put your money where your mouth is," said Nortman, a former managing partner at L.A.'s Upfront Ventures, referring to diversity, equity and inclusion

Added Robinson, "Our investment can really prove out the quality and returns that you can drive in this category, and hopefully bring a lot more capital to start paying attention."

Already, professional women's sports teams around the world are bringing in fans and big bucks.

New Zealand's national women's rugby team attracted a sellout crowd during last year's Rugby World Cup Final. British fans packed the stadium for the debut of a women's soccer club. In India, broadcasting rights to air the new Women's Indian Premier League cricket games went for about $1 million per game.

"I've spent a lot of time thinking about where is the right place to put capital now in this ecosystem," Robinson said. "Over the past couple of years, I just kept coming back to women's sports."

Additional investors in the fund include Laela Sturdy, who runs Alphabet's venture capital arm, and Cindy Holland, a former Netflix vice president.

"Historically there has been chronic under-investment in and woeful distribution and coverage of women's sports," Holland said in an email. "The time to change that is now."

Investors and researchers say women's sports is at an inflection point.

The landmark Title IX law mandating equal opportunities in sports for women and girls has been in effect for 50 years, resulting in scores of female athletes and more interest in watching women compete at professional levels.

Additionally, cord-cutting has given women's sports more opportunities to be broadcast on digital media platforms, rather than just relying on traditional broadcast television. That has made games more accessible, said Ceyda Mumcu, chair of the sport management department and an associate professor at the University of New Haven.

Ashley Landis Associated Press

NJ/NY GOTHAM FC plays Angel City FC in May. With a star-studded lineup of owners and investors, the L.A. team's value hit $100 million before its first game.

"That has been the major challenge for women's sports," she said. "If you can't find it on a media outlet, if you can't find it in your local, geographic region to go attend, then how can an audience be aware of this product?"

Holland remembered learning that the National Women's Soccer League was the first professional sport to get back to competition during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. But only "superfans" like her and her partner, Annie, even knew that the league was back, much less where games were being broadcast. Holland later became an early investor in Angel City.

"I have been a lifelong sports fan, but as a viewer, it has always been hard to find out where to watch women's sports, if they have been available to watch at all," Holland wrote in her email.

Already, investment in professional women's sports is increasing. Last year, the WNBA raised $75 million in its first-ever funding round, and Angel City's star-studded lineup of owners and investors — including Natalie Portman, Serena Williams, Candace Parker and Gabrielle Union — pushed the team's valuation to $100 million before it had even played its first game.

"There's this impression that these folks know what good sports are. So if they're investing in it, they must know something I don't know, so I want to check this out," said Lisa Kaplowitz, assistant professor at the Rutgers Business School and executive director of the Rutgers Center for Women in Business.

"You're also investing in the marketing, of telling that 'why' to get that fan base. And then it becomes this virtuous cycle where you're going to make money off of it," she said.

Nortman said Monarch Collective is interested in sports with a large global or domestic audience, including women's soccer and basketball. The fund is also interested in using sports teams and team ownership to build communities and leaders.

"If you go back in time on the men's side, how would you grow ownership groups in these markets so you can have different types of people as community leaders in their hometown?" she said.

Woolly mammoth is back, in a meatball

By Helen Chandler-Wilde

A woolly mammoth meatball has been created from the animal's DNA — 4,000 years after the beast went extinct.

The dish is made of cultured meat, grown in labs from animal cells. It used the DNA of the woolly mammoth, together with fragments of DNA from an African elephant, which is the animal's closest relative still alive today.

Vow, the Australian company that created the food, made the meat by isolating genetic material found in mammoths that gives flavor to red meat and filled in gaps with DNA from an elephant. The company said it hopes that the project will challenge people to reassess the climate damage caused by cows and other livestock, as it revealed the product at the Nemo Science Museum in Amsterdam. Beef is the most climate-intensive food.

This isn't the first time that DNA from extinct animals has been used for food production. In 2018, a company created gummy bears with gelatin from the DNA of a mastodon, the extinct elephant-like animal.

Vow is also conducting trials using cells from other extant but nontraditional animals, such as crocodile, in its food. The company, whose backers include an investment vehicle of billionaire Mike Cannon-Brookes, says that it can select for better taste and nutrition by growing food from a wider range of species.

The meatball started with an idea from Bas Korsten, the chief creative officer of advertising at Wunderman Thompson.

Vow is trying to create "entirely new food experiences," said James Ryall, its chief scientific officer. "Rather than simply replicating existing products, this technology offers us the opportunity to create something truly unique and better."

Founder Tim Noakesmith added that new technology meant that food no longer needs to be "the way we know it."

The company said it raised $49.2 million in November from investors.

Chandler-Wilde writes for Bloomberg.

U.S. charges Bankman-Fried with bribing China officials

By Ava Benny-Morrison, Muyao Shen and David Pan

Sam Bankman-Fried was charged with bribing Chinese officials, adding a new dimension to the U.S. government's case against the FTX co-founder.

The charge was unsealed Tuesday in a revised indictment by federal prosecutors in Manhattan. Bankman-Fried is accused of authorizing the payment of $40 million to get Chinese officials to unfreeze accounts at Alameda Research, a Hong Kong trading firm affiliated with FTX, holding more than $1 billion.

According to prosecutors, the Alameda accounts were frozen in 2021 as part of a Chinese government investigation into two cryptocurrency exchanges in that country. Those exchanges were OKX and Huobi Capital, people familiar with the matter said.

A spokesman for Bankman-Fried declined to comment.

With the charge of conspiracy to violate the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, Bankman-Fried now faces 13 criminal counts. He has pleaded not guilty to several fraud charges alleging the funneling of billions of dollars from now-bankrupt FTX to Alameda and for personal expenses.

Three of his close associates, Gary Wang, Caroline Ellison and Nishad Singh, have pleaded guilty to fraud and are cooperating with the government.

Bankman-Fried is free on a $250-million bail package and is due to face trial in October. He was arrested in the Bahamas, where his FTX cryptocurrency empire was based, in December and extradited back to the U.S.

An earlier revised indictment unsealed in February beefed up cam-paign-finance-related charges against Bankman-Fried, a onetime major donor to Democratic political candidates. Prosecutors alleged that Bankman-Fried conspired to influence U.S. crypto regulation through donations by him and others at FTX.

According to the latest indictment, Chinese authorities froze Alameda trading accounts as part of an investigation into a counter-party of the two exchanges.

OKX and Huobi didn't immediately respond to requests for comment Tuesday.

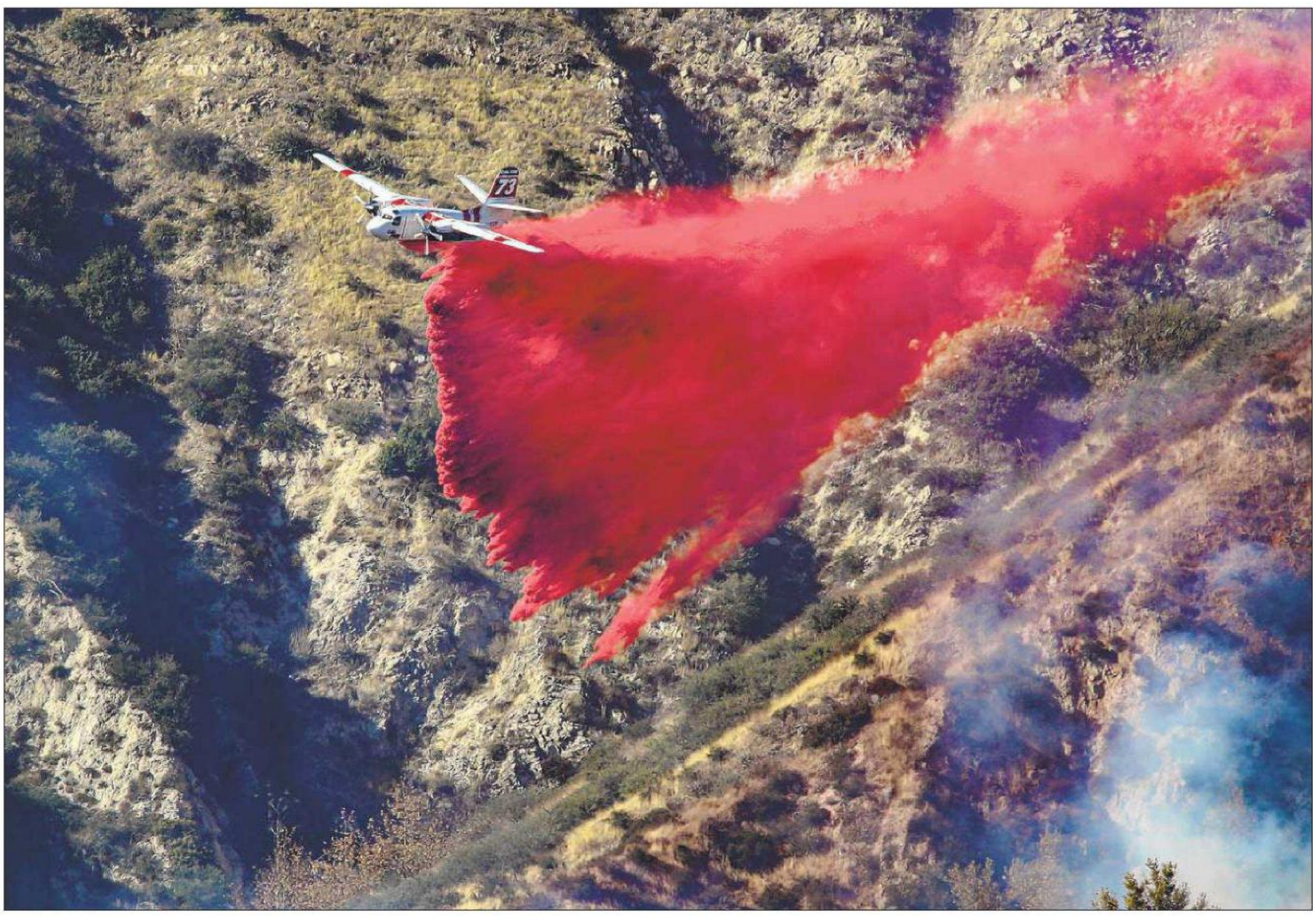
Bankman-Fried and "others operating at his direction" tried to unfreeze the Alameda accounts in 2021, including by recruiting attorneys to lobby in China for the assets to be released and trying to transfer the crypto to fraudulent accounts set up on a Chinese exchange.

After months of failed attempts, prosecutors allege, Bankman-Fried directed a bribe payment in the form of cryptocurrency to be transferred from Alameda's main trading account to a private wallet. The accounts were later unfrozen and he authorized the transfer of the remaining bribe.

Prosecutors allege that Bankman-Fried and others sought to regain access to the assets held in Alameda accounts to fund additional trading activity.

Benny-Morrison, Shen and Pan write for Bloomberg.

Forest Service is sued over fire retardant



IRFAN KHAN Los Angeles Times

FIRE RETARDANT is dropped on a brush fire in Lytle Creek in San Bernardino County. The chemicals can kill aquatic life, scientists say.

> ‘This is like dumping cash out of airplanes, except that it’s toxic and you can’t buy anything with it, because it doesn’t work.’
>
> — ANDY STAHL, Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics, which is suing the U.S. Forest Service over its use of air-dropped fire retardant

[**Fire retardant,** from A1]

The lawsuit, filed by the Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics, of which Stahl is executive director, accuses the Forest Service of violating the Clean Water Act, which prohibits the discharge of pollutants into U.S. waters without a permit.

The action comes as more retardant is being dropped from the air than ever before amid longer, more active fire seasons.

In 2021, 52.8 million gallons of retardant was dumped on federal, state and private land, compared with a 10-year average of 39 million gallons per year, according to figures provided by the Forest Service. More than half of the retardant the agency used on national forest land was dropped in California — more than in any other state.

The Forest Service primarily uses retardant with an ammonium phosphate base, intended to coat vegetation and other fuels around the edges of a fire to deprive advancing flames of oxygen. The goal is to slow the spread of fire and lessen its intensity so crews on the ground can attack it directly.

But the chemical, which is also used as fertilizer, can kill aquatic life. In Santa Barbara County, dozens of endangered steelhead trout were killed in Maria Ygnacio Creek during the 2009 Jesusita fire. Scientists at UC Santa Barbara documented elevated levels of ammonia in the water and concluded that the fish kill probably resulted from retardant.

The Forest Service has dropped more than 760,000 gallons of retardant into water, both accidentally and under an agency directive that such action is permissible if it mitigates threats to human life or public safety, according to figures the agency released last year.

Plaintiffs in the lawsuit have asked the court to prohibit the Forest Service from spilling retardant into waterways. The Forest Service contends in court documents that the only way to do so is to stop using retardant altogether, thereby eliminating a crucial firefighting tool.

Plaintiffs say the Forest Service could instead increase the width of buffer zones alongside waterways where no retardant can be dropped.

After the suit was filed, the Forest Service asked the Environmental Protection Agency to develop a general permit to cover the discharge of retardant into waterways. The EPA estimates that the process will take 2½ years.

Facing the prospect of the Forest Service not being able to apply retardant from the air for more than two years, more than a dozen communities and interest groups have petitioned to intervene in the case; among them are Paradise, California’s Butte and Plumas counties, and trade organizations representing private firefighting companies, the timber industry and agriculture.

“My understanding is that fire retardant is not good for waterways, but think of the other side of it,” said Butte County Supervisor Doug Teeter, who lost his home in the Camp fire. “A massive forest fire burning down a huge amount of acreage is probably worse for the environment.”

Camp was the deadliest wildfire in California history, killing 84 people. Crews were unable to use retardant around Paradise because the blaze moved too quickly, generating 100-mph winds and thick clouds of black smoke that grounded air tankers, but it was used to stop the flames from spreading to nearby Chico and Durham, Bolin said.

The legal wrangling prompted U.S. Reps. Doug LaMalfa (R-Richvale) and Jimmy Panetta (D-Carmel Valley Village) to introduce a bill March 14 that would explicitly exempt firefighting agencies from having to obtain a permit for retardant use.

The lawsuit is the latest salvo in a decades-long battle between Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics and the Forest Service.

The nonprofit first sued the Forest Service in 2003 for failing to conduct the appropriate environmental analysis to use aerial retardant; a federal court ruled that the agency must do so. The nonprofit again sued the Forest Service in 2008, alleging that its environmental analysis was inadequate; the court ruled that the agency had to conduct a more thorough analysis by the end of 2011.

That’s when the Forest Service agreed to map out exclusion areas where it would refrain from dropping retardant absent a risk to public safety, including buffers around waterways and the habitats of vulnerable species. The EPA told the agency at the time that if pilots complied with these guidelines, they would not need a permit, as they would not be discharging retardant into waterways.

But in a report released last year, the Forest Service admitted it had dropped more than 1 million gallons of retardant into exclusion areas on 459 occasions from 2012 through 2019. Retardant landed in water on 213 of those occasions, representing less than 1% of the roughly 56,868 drops the Forest Service made during that time frame, the agency said in court documents.

While the lawsuit primarily concerns the dropping of retardant into water, the issue of whether it works as intended has also been raised in court documents.

The Forest Service has argued that a prohibition on discharges of retardant into water would impair its firefighting capabilities and jeopardize safety, doing a disservice to the public interest. The FSEE has argued that the agency lacks evidence that aerial retardant accomplishes those goals.

Studies performed by Forest Service scientists have concluded that aerial retardant slows fire spread in laboratory-based and experimental fires, but its effectiveness in the field is dependent on environmental conditions such as slope, fuel type, terrain and weather.

“Aerial retardant is effective over a narrow range of conditions, and the windows of opportunity for those conditions are narrowing each year due to climate change,” said Timothy Ingalsbee, a former wildland firefighter and executive director of the nonprofit Firefighters United for Safety, Ethics and Ecology, which is not involved in the lawsuit.

Retardant is most effective when used in the cool of morning, on relatively level terrain with sparse vegetation during the initial attack on small fires burning near communities, Ingalsbee said. Ground crews must be nearby to take advantage of the reduced rate of spread by cutting containment lines; otherwise, the fire may slow temporarily and then keep spreading, he said.

Despite this, Ingalsbee said, research has shown that retardant is often dropped in the heat of the afternoon, during the extended attack of large fires burning on steep, densely forested slopes in remote areas where ground crews can’t reach, or when fire behavior is so intense that it’s too dangerous for ground crews to engage.

“The Forest Service feels pressure to do something, as much for public relations as any operational benefit,” he said. “But it’s just a big airshow.”

Times researcher Scott Wilson contributed to this report.

MARKET ROUNDUP

Stocks end mixed as stability reigns

By STAN CHOE

Major stock indexes

Index	Close	Daily change	Daily % change	YTD % change
Dow industrials	32,394.25	-37.83	-0.12	-2.27
S&P 500	3,971.27	-6.26	-0.16	+3.43
Nasdaq composite	11,716.08	-52.76	-0.45	+11.94
S&P 400	2,433.77	+6.93	+0.29	+0.14
Russell 2000	1,752.63	-1.04	-0.06	-0.49
EuroStoxx 50	4,169.45	+4.83	+0.12	+9.95
Nikkei (Japan)	27,518.25	+41.38	+0.15	+5.46
Hang Seng (Hong Kong)	19,784.65	+216.96	+1.11	+0.02

Associated Press

Stocks were mixed Tuesday as Wall Street regains some stability at the tail end of what’s been a turmoil-filled month.

The Standard & Poor’s 500 dipped 6.26 points, or 0.2%, to 3,971.27, though the majority of stocks in the index rose. The Dow Jones industrial average slipped 37.83 points, or 0.1%, to 3,394.25. The Nasdaq composite fell 52.76 points, or 0.4%, to 11,716.08.

There was relative calm even in the bond market, which has experienced some of Wall Street’s wildest moves since fears flared about the banking system this month. Yields rose only modestly after their historic moves in prior weeks.

This month has been dominated by worries that banks around the world may be cracking under the pressure of much higher interest rates. But some calm has returned to the market recently after regulators made big moves to protect the system.

That has much of Wall Street’s attention back on interest rates and what central banks will do next with them. The Federal Reserve and other central banks have a tough decision: Inflation is still high, which would typically call for even higher interest rates. But the weakness for banks has shown some fragility in the system that higher rates could worsen.

“I think the global central banks have put us in that middling zone, where we’re waiting for clarity on: Are they done?” said Rob Haworth, senior investment strategist at U.S. Bank Wealth Management.

After the Fed raised its key overnight rate to a range of 4.75% to 5% from virtually zero early last year, the market could find some relief if the Fed does take a pause after raising it one more time as it’s hinted, Haworth said.

“That’s a dramatic change” in rates over just a year, he said. “Just getting to some form of stability provides some clarity for planning to begin.”

Traders placed bets Tuesday that the Fed will raise rates at its next meeting, in May, though the slight majority is still calling for it to hold rates steady.

Higher rates try to slow inflation by hitting the entire economy with a blunt hammer. They also drag down prices for stocks, particularly technology and other high-growth stocks.

Apple, Microsoft and other Big Tech stocks were among the heaviest weights on the S&P 500 on Tuesday after dipping modestly.

On the winning side was McCormick & Co., which jumped 9.6% after the spices and seasonings company reported stronger profit and revenue for its latest quarter than analysts expected.

Other stocks were mixed, including financial stocks that have had a turbulent month. Most of those in the S&P 500 rose, but some banks that investors have highlighted as most at risk fell after erasing gains from the morning.

First Republic fell 2.3% while PacWest Bancorp was down 5%.

The harshest focus has been on smaller and midsize banks in the hunt for who could be next to suffer an exodus of customers akin to the run that toppled Silicon Valley Bank.

One of the broader worries has been that all the furor for banks could lead to a pullback in lending to businesses across the country. That in turn could lead to less economic growth and a higher risk of a recession.

Jan Hatzius, chief economist and head of global investment research at Goldman Sachs, recently raised his probability of a recession over the next year to 35% from 25%. But in a report, he called the banking industry’s struggles “a head wind, not a hurricane” for the economy.

Reports on the economy have been coming in mixed. The job market remains remarkably solid, while smaller corners of the economy have been showing more weakness.

On Tuesday, one report showed that confidence among consumers is strengthening, contrary to economists’ expectations for a moderation. Another report suggested U.S. home prices softened in January from December, but not by quite as much as economists expected.

Traders are still largely betting the Fed will have to cut rates as soon as this summer to prop up the economy. Such bets have returned in force since the banking industry’s woes began. They also materialized almost as quickly as a prior round of bets for rate cuts had earlier disappeared after data suggesting stickier-than-expected inflation.

Such drastic shifts in expectations for the Fed have led to huge swings in the bond market. On Tuesday, yields rose by only a bit.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury, which helps set rates for mortgages and other loans, rose to 3.55% from 3.54% late Monday.

The two-year yield, which moves more on expectations for the Fed, rose to 4.05% from 4.01% late Monday. It was above 5% earlier this month, its highest level since 2007.

Choe writes for the Associated Press. AP writers Yuri Kageyama and Matt Ott contributed to this report.

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Community Commerce Bank	NA	NA	3.05	3.57	4.87	5.12	4.76	4.50	4.40	
	NA	NA	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	909-450-2050
	4.61% APY 30 mos. CD Special - $100K Minimum to open - Member FDIC									www.ccombank.com
First Credit Bank	NA	NA	3.03	4.00	4.50	4.45	4.50	4.00	4.00	
	NA	NA	48,000	48,000	48,000	48,000	48,000	48,000	48,000	310-273-2500
	Member FDIC									
Tustin Community Bank	0.05	1.01	0.50	0.75	2.02	1.51	1.51	1.51	1.51	
	100	50,000	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	714-730-5662 www.tustincmtybank.com

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EDITORIAL

Nashville and a nation of mass shooting trauma

Another 200 children became survivors of gun violence Monday, this time in Nashville, when a 28-year-old armed with high-powered weapons broke into their school and opened fire, killing three 9-year-old classmates and three adult staff members.

The kids, along with employees of the private elementary school, join the growing number of Americans who have been touched by gun violence, who have had to shelter in place or run for their lives or confront the possibility that their lives will soon end by a bullet. And they also join the ranks of mourners for family, friends and colleagues who could not be protected or escape.

Just how common is it to be a survivor? Outside the Nashville school, Joylyn Bukovac, a local television reporter covering the killing rampage, shared that she, too, had survived a shooting at her middle school in 2010.

At another point, a woman crashed a television news conference, asking, "Aren't you guys tired of covering this?" That was Ashbey Beasley, who had been at the July 4 parade in Highland Park, Ill., last year when a gunman opened fire on the crowd, killing seven people. Beasley was in Nashville visiting family and was going to have lunch with Shaundelle Brooks, whose older son was killed in a 2018 mass shooting at a Waffle House. The women bonded over their gun control advocacy. But Brooks got word that her younger son's high school was on lockdown because of the gunfire nearby.

"I couldn't even fully process it," Beasley told the Washington Post. "What do you say? Because only in America can you survive a mass shooting and go and make a friend who is the victim of a mass shooting and then go to meet that friend for lunch ... and end up in the middle of another mass shooting event."

When we look beyond horrific headline-grabbing mass shootings, the tally of loss and sorrow compounds. Just in the last week, two administrators were shot at a high school in Denver and a student was shot in the parking lot at a high school in Dallas. Each day, children and adults are killed or maimed in shootings in neighborhoods, homes, houses of worship, grocery stores and movie theaters. Even some of the most powerful people in the nation — members of Congress — are not immune. There is no safe place.

How much longer before most Americans can count themselves as survivors of gun violence? What does that do to the national psyche? For parents to say goodbye to their children each morning with the lingering fear it will be the last time they see them. For young people who are trained by the culture to constantly scope out exit routes in case there is a shooter.

We're a country that purports to care about human life, yet we tolerate frequent mass casualties from guns. While conservative legislators in Tennessee and other states spend their time trying to ban books or drag queens, curtail gender-affirming care for transgender youth, or whitewash public school curriculum in the name of protecting children, they refuse to take meaningful steps to reduce the leading cause of their death in America: gun violence.

President Biden on Monday again called on Congress to ban assault weapons and close gun background check loopholes. A majority of Americans support stronger rules on the sale of guns and feel increasingly dissatisfied with the nation's failure to more strictly regulate firearms. But too many state and federal lawmakers, mostly Republican, won't buck the gun lobby and its extreme ideology that even common-sense restrictions amount to government oppression.

So, instead, Americans live with another kind of oppression — the crushing fear that they might be the next victim or survivor of gun violence.

John Amis Associated Press

IMPROMPTU MEMORIALS like the one now outside the Covenant School in Nashville are increasingly familiar.

This isn't what Americans want

School shootings are not what the 2nd Amendment was meant to protect. Young people shouldn't have to tally the dead.

LZ GRANDERSON

Sandy Hook is the mass shooting I hear mentioned most often when people talk about the moment they knew nothing would change.

A madman murders 26 people — most of them 6 or 7 years old — and Congress was still unable to pass substantive gun or mental health legislation. The assault weapons ban that Sen. Dianne Feinstein introduced in 2013 was defeated in the Senate with 15 Democrats siding with Republicans in opposition — not that it mattered. Even if the yeas and nays ran down party lines, the measure would have been five short of passage.

For a lot of people, that vote 10 years ago was a clear sign that the National Rifle Assn. and the gun lobby had won. I believe that indication came 60 years ago with the assassination of President Kennedy.

Consider this: In 1963 the president of the United States was murdered by someone who bought his rifle by mail for $12.78, and yet the piece of gun legislation his death is credited with inspiring didn't become law until five years later.

Just weeks after Kennedy's death, Sen. Thomas Dodd (D-Conn.) introduced a bill to ban mail-order gun sales (among other restrictions), and it got stuck in the Commerce Committee.

In its magazine, the NRA called the bill "irrational emotionalism." It was in an earlier issue of the same magazine where Lee Harvey Oswald saw an ad for the gun he used to kill Kennedy.

There were other bills introduced, and they too fell short of the finish line. Kennedy's assassination, as horrifying as it was, did not bring urgency.

Dodd had warned colleagues about the mail-order risk and growing gun violence as early as 1961. But elected officials spun in circles for five more years after Kennedy's death while Malcolm X, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and Sen. Robert Kennedy were all gunned down.

If it weren't for the Black Panther Party, Dodd's cause might never have made it out of committee. However, after armed members of the group entered the Capitol in Sacramento in 1967 to protest a bill restricting open carry, the winds shifted in California.

"There's no reason why on the street today a citizen should be carrying loaded weapons," then-Gov. Ronald Reagan said at the time, adding that it was a "ridiculous way to solve problems that have to be solved among people of good will."

After President Kennedy was murdered, the debate continued for years.

Yet after the Black Panthers issued a statement in 1967 — which read in part, "The Second Amendment of the Constitution of the United States gives us a right to bear arms. We therefore believe that all Black people should arm themselves for self defense" — there was gun control in California that same year. And the next year, Dodd's near 10-year effort was rewarded with national legislation against mail-order gun sales.

As Carol Anderson points out in her book "The Second: Race and Guns in a Fatally Unequal America," it wasn't the death of Kennedy that got the NRA to allow gun control in California. It was the sight of armed Black men.

Don't get mad at me. I'm just the messenger. The message is the 130 mass shootings so far in 2023.

Not every mass shooting is the same. What motivated the assailant in Nashville appears to be different from what motivated the attacker in Monterey Park, which was different from Pulse, which was different from Sandy Hook. Each shooting can lead to a different conversation. And the gun lobby has become adept at changing the subject.

"What about Chicago?" has long been a favorite.

More often today's gun law critics play whataboutism with proposals, highlighting suggested restrictions that would not have prevented some other mass shooting. It's as if the goal were legislative perfection as opposed to saving as many lives as possible. While co-anchoring an L.A. Times TV special last week about the Monterey Park shooting, I asked a young woman by the name of Nathalia Jackson why she kept track regularly of gun violence statistics. She said it's in part because she keeps hoping they'll get better.

Since that conversation, there have been at least two school shootings, including in Nashville, where six families have become part of a group that no one wants to join, but whose membership continues to grow nonetheless. Yet, it's because the membership continues to grow that those elected officials — the ones who only have thoughts and prayers to offer in moments like this, the ones who see gun debates as a fundraising opportunity, the ones hoping the NRA hands them a gold star — are running out of places to hide.

I'm sure 60 years ago there were parts of America that felt untouched by the nation's brewing gun violence. Yes, there were high-profile assassinations on TV, but Malcolm X, King and the Kennedys were all murdered in big cities. Surely, there isn't a problem with gun violence in a place like ... Newtown.

Or a college campus in Michigan.

A store in El Paso.

Churches and synagogues.

This cannot be the kind of freedom the 2nd Amendment was intended to protect.

This cannot be the version of freedom members of Congress want to leave behind for young people like Nathalia to grow up in and make sense of. Keeping track of how many young people have been shot and killed isn't freedom.

It's frightening.

LETTERS

Ban assault weapons. Do it now, lawmakers

Re "Motive sought in latest school shooting," March 28

I want something very simple. I want President Biden to state that he will not sign another bill passed by Congress, no matter how valid, until a bill reaches his desk outlawing assault weapons.

I want the federal government paralyzed until this bill is passed.

I want one more thing. I want the lawmakers who represent states where mass killings of children have happened — and there are many — to meet with the parents of those slain children and publicly explain to them face to face why they could not support such a bill.

James Steimke
Palm Desert

The mass murder in Nashville was horrifying. But the National Rifle Assn., the gun manufacturers and the members of Congress who support them can rest at ease, because no one lost their 2nd Amendment rights.

By the way, what well-regulated militia did the shooter belong to?

Ellen Knopf
Tustin

The photo by Nicole Hester of the Tennessean of a child weeping on a school bus should be enlarged into a poster and prominently displayed in the halls of Congress until significant actions on gun control are taken.

The Times has said its thousand words in that picture it published.

Karen Scott Browdy
Fillmore

There's been another shooting, so it's back to America's post-massacre drill: Mourn the innocent dead. Shower their survivors with thoughts and prayers. Highlight the shooter's maniacal bent.

And watch the NRA's political toadies duck questions about how easily assault weapons can be obtained.

After the dead are buried, life goes on. Firearm sales skyrocket. Animated 2nd Amendment debates recycle. Politicians stalemate on meaningful gun-control measures. Nothing much changes.

So Americans just cower until the next gun massacre resurrects this dreary drill. Pete Seeger's iconic lament comes to mind: "When will they ever learn?"

Greg Gilbert
Burney, Calif.

::

Let's be thankful that some areas have done more lately to protect children from drag queens than guns.

Jeffery Segall
Long Beach

No drought? Wells are dry

Re "Newsom in denial; state is no longer in drought," column, March 27

George Skelton's view is short-sighted.

More than 80% of Californians rely on groundwater, which is still in a severe drought. Even with the rains we've had, already 121 new wells have gone dry this year, a 55% year-over-year increase. During this drought, more than 1,600 domestic wells have gone dry, and most of those families who've lost access to drinking water are still relying on hauled or tanked water.

In fact, drilling of replacement wells is so slow, it would take longer than a decade to replace these wells, even if no more wells went dry.

The governor wisely removed most emergency orders pertaining to the drought for urban areas, while keeping protections in place to protect groundwater-dependent families and communities.

We need further executive action to speed up drilling of replacement wells now. Families without water don't have the luxury to wait for the legislative session.

Kyle Jones
Sacramento

The writer is Community Water Center's policy and legal director.

::

Skelton's column brings to mind an excerpt from John Steinbeck's novel "East of Eden," which is set in the Salinas Valley in the early 1900s:

"I have spoken of the rich years when rainfall was plentiful. But there were dry years, too, and they put a terror on the valley. The water came in a thirty-year cycle. There would be five or six wet and wonderful years.... And then the dry years would come.... It never failed that during the dry years the people forgot about the rich years, and during the wet years they lost all memory of the dry years. It was always that way."

Mike Urane
Long Beach

Skelton supplies but one piece of statistical data, the record Sierra snowpack, along with the current flooding from seasonal intense rain to support his argument.

An informed hydrologist would tell us that there are no less than four, and perhaps now five, criteria employed to validate the existence of drought — those being meteorological, agricultural, hydrological, socioeconomic and, perhaps of increasing concern, ecological.

If Skelton actually conducted some investigative effort, starting at the University of Nebraska Drought Mitigation Center, he might learn that his opinion that the governor should declare the drought over, while satisfying political expediency, is not supported by the evidence.

Michael J. Harley
Laguna Niguel

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Will the Nashville shooting inspire action?

Past waves of American violence prompted movements to reduce bloodshed. That's what we need now.

By Jason Opal

John Bazemore Associated Press

A VIGIL at Belmont United Methodist Church in Nashville after the school attack on Monday.

The murders of three children and three staff members at a school in Nashville on Monday was at least the 129th mass shooting of 2023, according to Gun Violence Archive. That's a rate of 1.5 mass shootings, involving four or more victims, each day of the year.

The constant barrage can sow feelings of hopelessness in the majority of us who would rather not have a country where there are more guns than people and where gun violence is now the leading cause of death for children.

Hopelessness is precisely what manufacturers of those weapons and lobbyists in the NRA want: that we give up and give in, quietly consenting to the vile dogma that periodic bloodbaths are just another "price of freedom."

The first step in avoiding such resignation is to realize that we are living through an unusual surge in interpersonal violence, not an unbroken "normal" that stretches back to 1776.

To be sure, we've had other bloody peaks in our history. One began soon after the Revolution, when high-strung gentlemen aped European aristocrats by settling their disputes on the dueling ground. Among them was the shifty Aaron Burr, who is rightly excluded from the pantheon of Founders for having fatally shot Alexander Hamilton in 1804.

But that killing set off a widespread effort by clergy and moral reformers to stop and stigmatize dueling as illegal and un-Christian. Local and state governments followed with a long wave of gun control measures, including a ban on concealed weapons in Louisiana in 1813 and the careful regulation of gunpowder by Texas in 1839.

As the governor of New York noted in 1820, reckless people who carried concealed weapons violated the "essential right of every free citizen" to live in lawful safety.

Another surge in bloodshed came during Prohibition and the Depression. While common thugs such as Al Capone built empires out of smuggled booze and drive-by shootings, psychopaths such as Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow used Tommy guns to rob, pillage and kill.

"Here is Samuel Davino, only 5 years old, pointing to where he was shot in the leg," relayed a 1931 newsreel after a gangland shooting in New York. "But poor little Samuel is more fortunate than Michael Vengali, also 5. Michael met death. And this casket will hold his tiny body, broken by machine gun bullets."

Here again, the people pushed back. In 1934, Congress enlisted the support of police, civic leaders and even the NRA to place a prohibitive tax on automatic weapons and short-barrel shotguns, while federal agencies took down gangsters and assassins by law where possible and force when necessary.

In other words, past surges in violence called forth multi-pronged, common-sense movements to address the bloodshed and restore peace. This is what we need now.

First, Congress must act again. Its 1994 assault ban worked, although how much is disputed. Something similar would work again, especially with greater funding for the agencies that enforce the laws.

In passing and renewing such laws, political leaders must not be dragged into abstruse arguments over whether the 2nd Amendment actually authorizes an individual right to pack heat — even though it says no such thing — or whether the patriots of 1776 would oppose gun controls, even though they were in the middle of a war and we are not. Just focus on the people's right to be alive, rather than to be killed.

On that note, those who traffic deadly weapons can be held accountable in court for the bloodshed their products cause. A so-called public nuisance suit targeting a gun distributor helped reduce gun violence in Chicago; New York recently paved the way for more of these suits. (I'm on the Advisory Committee of Global Action on Gun Violence, which promotes such efforts.)

Finally, we need to rethink the leading role of violence in American culture. Put simply, we tell too many stories, whether in art, film or literature, that culminate in deadly force and retribution. Time and again, the choreographed tension in our most popular narratives explodes in visually stunning gore — as promised by "John Wick 4," the movie that led the box office last weekend.

The belief that violence resolves and purifies has deep roots in particular strands of American Christianity, which in turn shape our national self-concept. To counter this, we need discussion across our many divides — listening to both secular and pious arguments — to rediscover the peaceful dimensions of our political, religious and moral traditions.

As the past tells us, confronting gun violence in a multifaceted way is more effective than pinning all our hopes on one law. It's also more sustainable, both in terms of strategy and morale. When we fall short in Congress or a state legislature, we may win a class-action suit, or forge a new partnership between a church and a youth group.

No matter what happens, we must remember that gun violence is a historical phenomenon, not a manifest destiny, and that history ultimately bends to those who do not despair.

Jason Opal is an American professor of history at McGill University in Montreal.

Care given to trans people is not 'untested'

States trying to ban many gender-affirming treatments ignore their long history and widespread use.

By G. Samantha Rosenthal

Rich Pedroncelli Associated Press

SOME NEW laws are so broad they could limit hormonal birth control.

In 1976, a woman from Roanoke, Va., named Rhoda received a prescription for two drugs: estrogen and progestin. Twelve months later, a local reporter noted Rhoda's surprisingly soft skin and visible breasts. He wrote that the drugs had made her "so completely female."

Indeed, that was the point. The University of Virginia Medical Center in nearby Charlottesville had a clinic specifically for women like Rhoda. In fact, doctors there had been prescribing hormones and performing surgeries — what today we would call gender-affirming care — for years.

The founder of that clinic, Dr. Milton Edgerton, had cut his teeth caring for transgender people at Johns Hopkins University in the 1960s. There, he was part of a team that established the nation's first university-based Gender Identity Clinic in 1966.

When politicians today refer to gender-affirming care as new, "untested" or "experimental," they ignore the long history of transgender medicine in the United States.

Understanding the history of gender-affirming treatments in the U.S. can be a helpful guide for citizens and legislators in a year when a record number of bills in statehouses target the rights of transgender people.

As a trans woman and a scholar of transgender history, I have spent much of the past decade studying these issues. When I began hormone replacement therapy, I, like many Americans, wasn't aware this treatment had been around for generations. What I was even more surprised to learn was that hormone therapy is often prescribed to cisgender women — women who were assigned female at birth and raised their whole lives as women. In fact, many providers in my region already had a long record of prescribing hormones to cis women, primarily women experiencing menopause.

I also learned that gender-affirming hormone therapies have been prescribed to cisgender youths for generations — despite what contemporary politicians may say. Disability scholar Eli Clare has written of the history and continued practice of prescribing hormones to boys who are "too short" and girls who are "too tall" for what is considered a normal range for their gender. Because of binary gender norms that celebrate height in men and smallness in women, doctors, parents and ethicists have approved the use of hormonal therapies to make children conform to gender stereotypes since at least the 1940s.

The history of these treatments demonstrates that hormone therapies and puberty blockers have been used on cisgender children in this country — for better or for worse — with the goal of regulating the passage from girlhood to womanhood and from boyhood to manhood. Gender stereotypes concerning the presence or absence of secondary sex characteristics — too tall, too short, too much body hair — have all led parents and doctors to perform gender-affirming care on cisgender children.

For over half a century, legal and medical authorities in the U.S. have also approved and administered surgeries and hormone therapies to force the bodies of intersex children to conform to binary gender stereotypes. I myself had genital surgery in infancy to bring my anatomy into alignment with expectations for what a "male" body should look like. In most cases, intersex surgeries are unnecessary for the health or well-being of a child.

Historians such as Jules Gill-Peterson have shown that early advances in transgender medicine in this country are deeply interwoven with the nonconsensual treatment of intersex children. Doctors at Johns Hopkins University and the University of Virginia practiced reconstructing the genitalia of intersex people before applying those same treatments on transgender patients.

Given these intertwined histories, I contend that the current political focus on prohibiting gender-affirming care for transgender people is evidence that opposition to these treatments is not about the safety of any specific medications or procedures, but rather their use specifically by transgender people.

In many states, especially in the South, where I live, governors and legislatures are introducing bills to ban gender-affirming care —even for adults — in ignorance of history. Almost every major medical organization in the U.S. has come out against new government restrictions on gender-affirming care because, as doctors and professionals, they know these treatments are time-tested and safe.

The consequences of hurried legislation extend beyond trans people, because access to hormones and surgeries is a basic medical service many people may need to feel better in their body.

Prohibitions on hormone therapy and gender-related surgeries for minors could mean ending the same treatment options for cisgender children. The legal implications for intersex children may directly clash with proposed legislation in several states that aims to codify "male" and "female" as discrete biological sexes with certain anatomical features.

Prohibitions on hormone replacement therapy for adults could affect access to the same treatments for menopausal women or limit access to hormonal birth control. Prohibitions of gender-affirming surgeries could affect anyone's ability to access a hysterectomy or a mastectomy. So-called cosmetic surgeries such as breast implants or reductions, and even facial feminization procedures such as lip fillers or Botox, could also come under question.

These are all different types of gender-affirming procedures. Are most Americans willing to live with this level of government intrusion into their bodily autonomy? No one should have to.

G. Samantha Rosenthal is an associate professor of history at Roanoke College. This article was produced in partnership with the Conversation.

Elon Musk's Twitter chaos has come calling for me

ROBIN ABCARIAN

When Elon Musk strode into Twitter's San Francisco headquarters in October, toting a bathroom sink, it did seem possible that the social media platform might soon be circling the very drain he held in his hands.

So much of the Twitter-using world was aghast at Musk's purchase of the popular but unprofitable social media platform. For weeks, the speculation raged:

He'd wreck Twitter by letting banned troublemakers like former President Trump back on.

He'd charge for the infamous blue check that denotes "legitimacy," rendering it meaningless.

He'd make sure that his own tweets would top every user's timeline.

More ominously: He would crumble under the immense debt load he incurred by taking Twitter private.

I followed the controversies but not terribly closely.

Of course, Twitter has become an indispensable platform for many of its millions of users. But unlike many journalists, I don't live for every post and retweet. For me, it's been a great tip service; I get lots of column ideas about topics people are passionate about. Mainly for professional reasons — and to procrastinate, of course — I dip in and out of Twitter multiple times a day.

On balance, the platform is a hugely positive phenomenon for its users, although volumes have been and will be filled about its misuse by propagandists, conspiracy theorists and hate mongers from all points on the political and cultural spectrum.

And, of course, there's no snark like Twitter snark.

It was a tragic day for many reasons when conservative provocateur Andrew Breitbart dropped dead of a heart attack in 2012 at age 43. Selfishly, I still mourn the demise of his brutal but immensely entertaining daily Twitter war with liberal media critic Eric Boehlert, who also suffered an untimely death after being hit by a train while riding his bike last year. The two of them turned Twitter into, as one Breitbart admirer put it, "a tool of combat."

These days, I love perusing the replies to posts by right-wing ideologues like U.S. Reps. Jim Jordan of Ohio and Marjorie Taylor Green of Georgia. I'm enamored of porn actress Stormy Daniels' bawdy takedowns of the Former Guy and his supporters. (Trumper tweet: "President Trump wouldn't touch you with a 10-foot pole." Daniels' reply: "True. He touched me with a three-inch one.")

After Musk sacked about half of Twitter's workforce and the site was awash in glitches and outages with apparently not enough engineers to right the ship, many users speculated the end days were near. For a while after the Musk takeover, its trending hashtags included #GoodbyeTwitter and #RIPTwitter.

The good news is that Twitter is, as the New York Times put it late last month, "unlikely to go kaput."

Well, maybe for you.

But for me, on March 12, Twitter went kaput.

I was watching a movie when an email from Twitter landed in my inbox: "Email address for @AbcarianLAT changed." A link had been sent to the new email address, "ga********@g****.***" and if that wasn't me, Twitter asked, "please contact Twitter support immediately."

That wasn't me, so I clicked on the enclosed link, which sent me to a support form, which I filled out. I didn't think much of it, but I was unable to open my Twitter account @AbcarianLAT. That was slightly inconvenient, but not a major bummer. Also, my profile photo had disappeared.

A few days later, Twitter support emailed to tell me that my Los Angeles Times email address, the one I'd used to register my Twitter account in 2009, was not the email associated with my account. What the hell?

You can't actually email or call a human being at Twitter, so I filled out another form explaining who I was, that I was locked out of my account and that the Times email should be associated with it. I had a couple more frustrating exchanges with nonhuman Twitter, and then, unbidden, it assigned me a new handle, @abcarian84006. I wrote again and said I wanted my old account back.

After that, I was never able to get back into @AbcarianLAT. I had almost 10,000 followers, which is not very many in the grand scheme of journalism Twitter. In fact, one of my colleagues once described my Twitter account as "tragically underfollowed." Whatever. It was mine and I liked it.

After 10 days or so, figuring I would never again be able to access my account, I created a new one. My profile photo is me, as the Wicked Witch of the West, and my golden retriever as the Cowardly Lion. My background banner is a photo of my father flipping the bird in front of the Trump National Golf Course in Palos Verdes.

I now have 10 precious followers, to whom I pledge eternal loyalty.

On Monday, I couldn't believe it when another email from Twitter landed in my inbox: "Your Twitter account has been reactivated! Welcome back!"

Oh wow, I thought, I guess I overreacted when I created that whole new account. *Hasta la vista*, 10 new followers. *@AbcarianLAT is back!*

Alas, it was not. Twitter was merely reactivating the account I never asked for in the first place, @abcarian84006.

As of now, @AbcarianLAT is still there, frozen in time. Since March 12, no one has accessed it, or hacked into it, as far as I can tell. I don't really understand what happened, and so far, Twitter won't or can't explain it to me.

This week, because Musk is drowning in debt, he shook up the Twitterverse once more.

Starting next month, he announced, blue check marks, introduced in 2009 to verify identities and delegitimize impersonators, would officially be available only to those willing to pay $8 a month. And Twitter's algorithm, he vows, will no longer promote, or recommend, tweets from accounts *without* blue check marks.

I lost my check mark when I got locked out of my original account; I don't intend to pay for a new one. I never expected to be anything more than a bystander to all the drama at Twitter, but quite unwittingly, I seem to have been swept up in it.

But here's the thing: My sense of self-worth has never risen or fallen on my Twitter status. I can still peruse Twitter for news just as I did before.

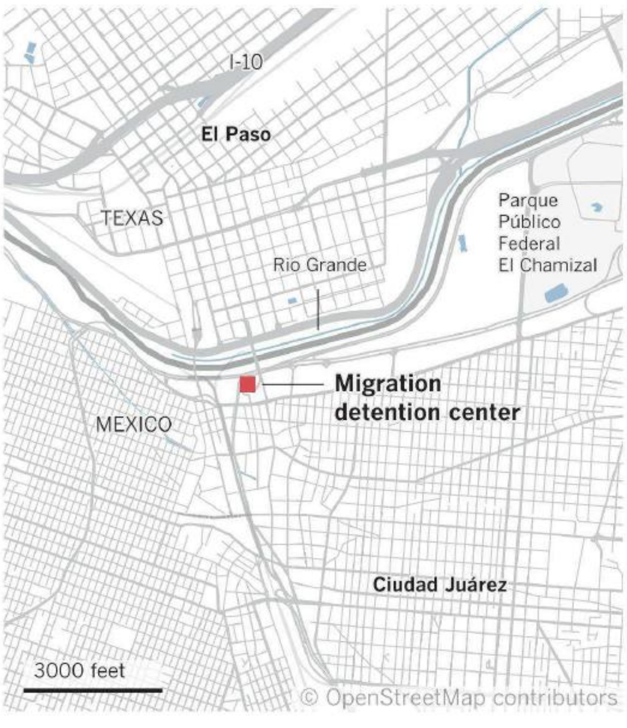
And with a new identity, I now have access to accounts that have blocked the old me — talking to you, @HeyTammyBruce!

@robinkabcarian

Deaths in migrant facility fire stir outrage

Associated Press

MORE THAN three dozen people were killed in the blaze at a migrant detention center in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, authorities said. An image from video shows the bodies of victims, wrapped in thermal blankets.


I-10
El Paso
TEXAS
Rio Grande
Parque Público Federal El Chamizal
Migration detention center
MEXICO
Ciudad Juárez
3000 feet
© OpenStreetMap contributors

PAUL DUGINSKI Los Angeles Times

[**Mexico,** from A1]
blaming U.S. and Mexican authorities for policies they called inhumane.

"It's not like these incidents just happen out of thin air," said Stephanie Leutert, director of the Central America and Mexico Policy Initiative at University of Texas at Austin and a former Biden administration official. "You've got the U.S. and Mexico's restrictive immigration policies and border enforcement efforts that create the conditions."

Many said the fire is evidence that Mexico is not equipped to manage and care for the record number of people who have been stranded in the country while trying to reach the United States in recent years. Advocates warn that the crisis is likely to worsen this summer, when the U.S. rolls out a new policy to turn back even more asylum seekers to Mexico.

"As the U.S. continues to implement policies that push asylum seekers back into Mexico, humanitarian infrastructure in the country is increasingly strained and more people are stuck in highly vulnerable situations," said Rafael Velásquez of the International Rescue Committee.

Rescuers spent hours Monday night and early Tuesday morning pulling remains from the burned building. Bodies, wrapped in silver thermal blankets, were lined up on the ground.

On Tuesday, U.S. border officials said they would be allowing victims of the fire to enter the United States to receive medical treatment.

The detention center was still smoldering in the afternoon as dozens of migrants descended on the site to demand information about loved ones who they feared had perished inside.

"They were left to die!" one migrant shouted at authorities.

"Why do they treat us like dogs?" another asked.

Katiuska Márquez, a 23-year-old Venezuelan, was desperately searching for her brother, 30-year-old Orlando Maldonado.

She said that they both had been detained Monday along with her husband and their two young children. Their crime: begging for money for food along a busy Juarez street.

Márquez, her husband and the children were eventually released because the Mexican government is not equipped to detain families. But she said her brother was taken to a room at the center packed with many other men. She said she spoke to him briefly through a set of steel bars.

"I managed to see my brother and he told me, 'Don't let me die, get me out of here,'" she said. "But what could I do? My words don't count for anything here. So I left."

When she heard about the fire, she rushed back to the center, eager to tell authorities about the tattoo of a crucified Jesus Christ on her brother's right arm. They said that they had no information about him but that if he survived, he may have been taken to another immigration center or to one of several area hospitals. Márquez said she lacked the bus fare to go search for him.

The death count was still in flux Tuesday, with the government reporting 40 victims at one point before revising that to 38.

According to the Mexican attorney general's office, the dead and injured included 28 Guatemalans, 13 Hondurans, 12 Salvadorans, 12 Venezuelans and one citizen each from Colombia and Ecuador.

It was unclear whether some of the migrants had been previously deported from the United States.

In recent months, northern Mexican cities have been overwhelmed as a result of recent Biden administration policies that limit the ability of migrants from four countries — Venezuela, Nicaragua, Haiti and Cuba — to seek asylum at the border without first making an appointment via a smartphone application. The system has been riddled with glitches and offers limited appointments, which fill up within minutes.

Some migrants have waited months at the border.

Tensions have been particularly high in Juarez, where shelters housing people hoping to cross into the United States are overflowing and stranded migrants have been asking for food and money in major intersections and sleeping on the sidewalk near border crossings into El Paso.

"We have exceeded our capacity to provide attention," said Miguel Angel Gonzalez, president of a church-based network of shelters in Juarez. He said his network's 15 shelters have been completely full for the last six months.

City officials have publicly criticized the migrants, with Juarez Mayor Cruz Peréz Cuéllar recently imploring residents to not give migrants money, insisting that they can find work.

In a March 9 letter, several dozen migrant advocacy groups urged the city to investigate abuses by police and immigration officials. They said that during arbitrary detentions, officials have questioned migrants about their legal status, extorted and stolen money from them and destroyed their documents.

The letter described an incident in early March in which they said police violently and arbitrarily detained migrants in a downtown cathedral as well as another incident the following week in which members of the army, the national guard and the city police swarmed a hotel where migrants were staying, sending "a clear message of intimidation."

Tensions boiled over a few weeks ago when hundreds of people — mostly from Venezuela — tried to force their way across an international bridge to El Paso before they were stopped by U.S. authorities.

The numbers of migrants in cities such as Juarez are expected to grow in coming months as the Biden administration prepares to implement a new policy that would further restrict access to asylum at the border.

Throughout the COVID pandemic, federal officials have used a public health measure called Title 42 to prevent migrants from seeking asylum at the border and to quickly expel those who attempt to enter the United States.

With that border policy set to expire in May, the Biden administration last month unveiled a plan that would make migrants ineligible for asylum if they enter the U.S. without permission and fail to apply for protection in another country on their way. Some could still request asylum at an official port of entry, but would generally be required to do so using the smartphone app.

Human rights advocates say the new system is likely to strand even more people along Mexico's famously treacherous migrant trail.

In recent decades, migrants trying to cross Mexico have died at the hands of organized crime, as well as while riding atop cargo trains and while packed into overcrowded trailers lacking ventilation.

They have also faced abuse from immigration agents, advocates say. Mexico's immigration agency said this year that 105 of its agents had been reported to the internal affairs office for corruption.

The deadly fire was the most dramatic illustration to date of the crisis that has engulfed Mexican border cities and towns since successive U.S. administrations — under Presidents Trump and Biden — strong-armed Mexico into taking back U.S.-bound migrants arriving at the international line.

Yet despite U.S. efforts at deterrence, migrants have not stopped trying to reach the border. Tens of thousands of people continue to stream north, fleeing poverty, conflict and political repression.

Panama's government said last week that 50,000 migrants entered the country from Colombia through a treacherous stretch of jungle known as the Darien Gap in the first two months of 2023, five times more than in the same period last year.

"Mexico is the last mile for people facing humanitarian crises around the world," said Velásquez, of the International Rescue Committee.

Mexico's migrant detention centers have seen protests over conditions from time to time. Last year, riots broke out at a detention center in the northern border city of Tijuana and another in the southern city of Tapachula. A 2020 fire at a migrant facility in the southern town of Tenosique killed one migrant and injured others.

Felipe Gonzalez Morales, the United Nations' special rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, also blamed the fire on government policies.

"The extensive use of immigration detention leads to tragedies like this," he wrote on Twitter. "The immigration detention of adults, in accordance with International Law, should be an exceptional measure and not a general one."

At a special Mass in Juarez on Tuesday for victims of the fire, Bishop José Guadalupe Torres Campos implored his parishioners to remember that a migrant "is a person, not a statistic, ... a child of God who must be treated with dignity, respect and love."

"Enough," he said of policies that dehumanize immigrants. "What is happening to us? What have we become?"

Times staff writers Linthicum and McDonnell reported from Todos Santos, Mexico, and Ciudad Juarez, respectively, and special correspondent Minjares from Ciudad Juarez. Staff writers Leila Miller and Cecilia Sánchez Vidal in Mexico City, Andrea Castillo in Washington and Hamed Aleaziz in Healdsburg, Calif., contributed to this report.

Key water reservoir being refilled after years of drought

GINA FERAZZI Los Angeles Times

ONLOOKERS watch as Diamond Valley Lake is being refilled. Despite the series of storms, officials stress that conservation and planning are still needed.

[**Lake,** from A1]
changing climate. Rapid swings from extreme wetness to extreme dryness are becoming more common, and the lake will undoubtedly be needed for dry times again.

"Just because we're now seeing some rain — lots of rain — does not mean that we can let up," said Heather Repenning, vice chair of MWD's board. "I know that's not what everyone wants to hear, but that is reality. We must rebuild our reserves and reduce our demands in the long term to ensure we keep this water in storage for the drier days ahead."

Diamond Valley Lake is a "backbone" of Southern California's water storage system, Hagekhalil said. Its reserves can be routed to almost all of MWD's service area during dry times, and without it, the last three years of drought would have been even more challenging for the region's residents.

The $2-billion, 4.5-mile-long reservoir was built nearly three decades ago and holds twice as much water as all of the region's other surface reservoirs combined. It has continued to act as a buffer against drought and against the looming threat of earthquakes and other emergencies that could cut off Southern California's supply.

"When things go really bad, this is the one that saves our system," Hagekhalil said.

The mood Monday was joyous, as water poured into the reservoir from the State Water Project — a vast network of reservoirs, canals and dams that acts as a major component of California's water system.

Last week, officials from the Department of Water Resources said the state's soaking storms and record snowpack had boosted supplies so significantly that they were able to increase State Water Project allocations from 35% to 75% for their member agencies, which together provide water for about 27 million people.

Bone-dry conditions last year saw the State Water Project allocation at just 5% for the second year in a row.

Winter's bounty also enabled Gov. Gavin Newsom to scale back emergency actions tied to the drought, including calls for a 15% reduction in water use and a requirement that urban suppliers activate Level 2 of their water shortage contingency plans, indicating a shortage of 20%.

The MWD similarly peeled back some of its most stringent restrictions this month, including requirements that member agencies limit outdoor watering to one day a week or reduce their overall use.

However, the larger trend is toward "hotter and drier conditions," said Wade Crowfoot, California's natural resources secretary. He added that research indicates that 10% of the state's water supply will be lost to thirstier soils and a more evaporative atmosphere by 2040.

"From my perspective, there's no going back to normal — it's adjusting to a new normal," Crowfoot said. That includes "understanding that we're going to have these long, hot droughts that are punctuated by very intense wet winters. Increasingly, we need to adjust our infrastructure, our management, to capture water during wet winters like this for use during longer drought periods."

Those efforts include expanding the state's water storage capacity, improving its groundwater recharge capabilities and accelerating wastewater recycling and brackish desalination projects, among other items outlined in Newsom's Strategy for a Hotter, Drier California.

Also included in the strategy are some more controversial projects, including plans to build a giant tunnel to move water beneath the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta and plans for a new reservoir north of Sacramento — both of which have sparked opposition from environmental groups.

MWD officials pointed to Diamond Valley Lake as an example of the foresight needed for big projects in the future.

But the agency must also improve its present ability to move water throughout its system. Some parts of its coverage area — including portions of Ventura and western Los Angeles County — are almost entirely dependent on state supplies, yet the MWD has limited means of delivering water to them from Diamond Valley Lake, Hagekhalil said.

"I want to make sure that every drop we have in our system is able to move anywhere in our system," he said.

With many projects in various stages of development and completion, officials Monday also applauded Southern Californians for their conservation efforts.

Though the region's population has grown by 5 million people since 1990, there has been "almost no growth in overall water usage," Crowfoot said.

However, officials noted that Southern California could soon be facing considerable cuts from its other major supply — the strained Colorado River system — and should maintain its ethos of conservation.

Still, Hagekhalil breathed a clear sigh of relief as the reservoir refilled behind him Monday.

"It doesn't take much to get us into the other side of whiplash," the general manager said. But "we're in good shape right now, and probably will be in good shape the rest of this year, and probably next year."

From a catwalk high above the valves, MWD operations and maintenance manager Scott Reierson said it was a rare day at work.

"This is super cool — we don't get to see this too often," he said above the roar of rushing water. "We only get to do this once in a blue moon."

Los Angeles Times
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CALIFORNIA
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 2023 :: LATIMES.COM/CALIFORNIA

Photographs by ROBERT GAUTHIER Los Angeles Times

MARIA TERRIQUEZ pushes a shopping cart of supplies over the Pajaro River bridge. After flood evacuations began on March 10, some groups came together to help Indigenous farmworkers.

BREAKING DOWN LANGUAGE BARRIERS

Amid flood, interpreters provide a lifeline to Indigenous workers

By Ruben Vives and Melissa Gomez

WATSONVILLE, Calif. — Inside an evacuation center at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds, Maria Adolfo-Morales and a disaster service volunteer listened to a woman describe her concerns in the Mixteco language.

The woman and her three children had been staying at the center for a week, after a broken levee flooded the farming town of Pajaro and forced residents to flee.

Adolfo-Morales, a 22-year-old community healthcare worker, interpreted what the woman said into English, then rendered the volunteer's responses into Mixteco, one of several Indigenous languages spoken in southern Mexico.

[See **Interpreters,** B2]

MARIA ADOLFO-MORALES, talking to evacuees in Watsonville, Calif., speaks Mixteco, an Indigenous language of southern Mexico.

ANALYSIS

Newsom didn't get oil profits tax, but still won

New transparency law gives the governor a political victory over a powerful industry.

By Taryn Luna and Laurel Rosenhall

Gov. Gavin Newsom made a clarion call last fall for a special legislative session to penalize the profits of California oil companies.

The narrative, woven into news articles across the country, nearly wrote itself: The Democratic governor was launching yet another offensive in his war with Big Oil.

The battle, however, didn't go as planned.

State lawmakers in his own party balked at his idea to cap the industry's profits. In legislative hearings, some said they found no "smoking gun" confirming Newsom's allegations of intentional price gouging.

The final version of the bill focused on demanding more transparency from the industry. Instead of enacting a cap and penalty on oil refinery profits, Newsom and lawmakers gave state regulators the ability — but not a mandate — to do so in the future. Consumer advocates have celebrated the new law as a groundbreaking tool that could keep gas prices from escalating.

But even though the law falls short of the policy he initially said he wanted, it still gives the governor a political victory over the oil industry. The law allows Newsom to position himself as a cutting-edge leader who scored a win against a politically powerful industry that many progressives view as a bogeyman.

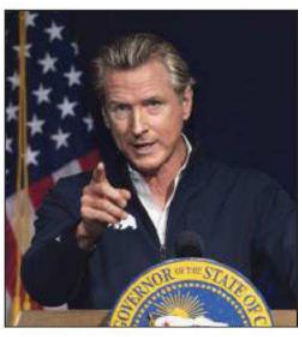
At a bill-signing in the Capitol on Tuesday, Newsom stood alongside Democratic lawmakers and hailed their cooperation as he took another dig at the petroleum industry. He argued that the final legislation is stronger than his original idea because it creates a new division within the California Energy Commission to act as a watchdog over oil companies.

"Finally, we're in a position to look our constituents in the eye and say we now have a better understanding of why you're being taken advantage of," Newsom said.

"There's a new sheriff in town in California, where we brought Big Oil to their knees. And I'm proud of this state."

Yet Newsom also ac-

[See **Newsom,** B4]



José Luis Villegas AP

GOV. GAVIN Newsom, shown in January, said, "We brought Big Oil to their knees."

UNION SUES MOORE OVER PHOTOS

The suit demands that the LAPD chief claw back images of undercover officers.

By Richard Winton and Libor Jany

The union representing Los Angeles police rank and file sued Chief Michel Moore on Tuesday to force the department to stop making officers' photos public and to claw back images of undercover officers given out under the state's public records law.

The lawsuit follows more than a week of controversy, after the LAPD released the names, photographs and other identifying information of more than 9,300 officers to a watchdog group that posted them on its website.

The LAPD released the images and information as part of a public records request to a journalist with the nonprofit newsroom Knock LA.

The Stop LAPD Spying Coalition, an activist group, then turned the photos into a public, searchable database called "Watch the Watchers," which includes each officer's name, ethnicity, rank, date of hire, division/bureau, badge number and photo.

Robert Rico, legal counsel for the Los Angeles Police Protective League, said Tuesday that the union also will ask the judge to temporarily take down the Watch the Watchers website until

[See **Suit,** B2]

School strike possibly illegal

A state board lets LAUSD's case against two unions move to a formal hearing. **B3**

Target of prank is hospitalized

A Tustin mom passes out after a bucket was placed over her head in an online stunt. **B3**

Twitter blocks anti-cop site

The @killercop1984 account violated rules against inciting violence. **B2**

Lottery **B4**

Don't put away your umbrella just yet

Another powerful storm has struck Northern California and is heading south.

By Hayley Smith

Here we go again: A powerful Pacific storm moved into California on Tuesday, promising to deliver strong winds, low temperatures and even more rain to the waterlogged state.

The "cold and vigorous storm system" originated in the Gulf of Alaska, the National Weather Service said. It struck Northern California on Tuesday and will make its way south and east through Wednesday, keeping high temperatures in the 50s across much of the state.

The storm will likely result in "more downed trees and power lines and power outages" but is not expected to be as violent as the bomb cyclone that struck the state last week, said UCLA climate scientist Daniel Swain.

"I don't think there's going to be a repeat of that, even though the impacts from this storm will be higher than a storm of this magnitude would usually be, just because there's been so many strong storms that have preceded it," he said.

The northernmost parts of the state felt the first effects Tuesday, with more than 14,000 people in Del Norte, Siskiyou and Shasta counties losing power for several hours. Winter storm warnings and advisories covered nearly all of the region, with officials warning of potential wind gusts of 45 mph and heavy snow above 2,500 feet, including up to 24 inches in parts of Trinity County.

[See **Storm,** B5]

Taking stigma and stress out of having to go

Trans students say bill requiring all-gender restrooms would make them feel safer.

By Vanessa Arredondo

Benjamin Kennedy, a PhD student in education at UC San Diego, remembers what it was like to attend school in California as a transgender student.

From kindergarten to his senior year of high school, Kennedy said, he experienced bullying and physical assault when trying to use the bathrooms that aligned with his gender identity.

In 2021, Kennedy joined a state committee of high school students, parents, advocates and experts that explored how to expand gender-inclusive bathrooms on campuses.

"Trans people are not a monolith," Kennedy said. "But often our experiences of discrimination and harassment are pretty consistent across the board."

In the committee, students said they had been late to class due to going across campus to find a private bathroom. Others expressed worries about outing themselves by asking for the key to the single-use bathroom. Some talked about experiencing dehydration and urinary tract infections as a result of avoiding the restroom at school.

To address this, Sen. Josh Newman (D-Fullerton) has introduced SB 760, which would require public schools in California to provide gender-neutral bathrooms for students by 2025.

These restrooms are to remain unlocked during school hours and can be con-

[See **Bathrooms,** B5]

GENDER NEUTRAL RESTROOM

Toby Talbot Associated Press

A PROPOSED STATE bill would mandate that California public schools provide gender-neutral bathrooms, like this one at the University of Vermont.

SPORTS ON THE BACK: Dennis Schroder is the smallest but most durable Laker. B10

Interpreters a bridge for Indigenous workers

ROBERT GAUTHIER Los Angeles Times

PEOPLE GET supplies at a church in Watsonville. Roughly 170,000 Indigenous Mexican farmworkers live in California, and many of Pajaro's agricultural workers speak Mixteco and are not fluent in English or Spanish.

[**Interpreters,** from B1]

The woman's inquiries echoed those of other displaced residents: How do I apply for food assistance? How do I apply for financial assistance?

Many of Pajaro's agricultural workers are Mixteco speakers who are not fluent in English or Spanish. Adolfo-Morales and other interpreters have been a lifeline for them as they figure out how to survive after losing their homes and livelihoods.

An estimated 170,000 Indigenous Mexican farmworkers live in California, contributing to its booming economy. That number does not take into account nonagricultural jobs, nor does it include Indigenous immigrants from Guatemala, Nicaragua, Ecuador and Peru. Researchers say 6 in 10 farmworkers in the state are Indigenous.

Despite previous disasters — the Thomas fire, the COVID-19 pandemic — state and local officials have yet to fully include this growing population into their planning, often relying on nonprofits to communicate basic information.

With different languages in the mix, and climate change likely to spur more extreme weather, community organizers say more needs to be done.

And now, a week after many Pajaro residents have gone home, they will need to navigate complicated bureaucracies to get the help they need to rebuild their lives, which can be monumentally difficult even for English and Spanish speakers.

"The language barrier, coupled with the economic situation that they're in, you've got a lot of people trying to process and make sense of what has happened and is happening to them," said Erica Padilla-Chavez, executive director of the Second Harvest Food Bank Santa Cruz, which was among the nonprofits providing language assistance at the fairgrounds shelter.

When evacuations began in Pajaro on March 10, a coalition of grassroots organizations, came together to help Indigenous farmworkers, said MariaElena De La Garza, executive director of the Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County.

De La Garza said her organization and others, including the food bank, created a rotation of staff, contractors and volunteers who speak Mixteco, Triqui and Zapoteco, as well as Spanish, on four to five hour shifts at the fairgrounds shelter, which housed more than 300 evacuees.

Arcenio López, executive director of Mixteco/Indigena Community Organizing Project, said there are more than a dozen variants of the Mixteco language in Pajaro. Most residents, he said, are from Oaxaca and Guerrero.

After the levee broke, community organizers worked with Monterey County officials to provide dozens of interpreters and volunteers to assist families at evacuation centers.

"We've learned through the pandemic the importance of ensuring that the systems that are set up to be responsive are able to reach the communities that are most impacted," De La Garza said.

Luis Alejo, chair of the Monterey County Board of Supervisors, said the county plans to make Indigenous interpreters an integral part of the services it provides to residents, eventually including courtrooms and the police and fire departments.

"This has to be part of how we deliver emergency services," he said.

On Adolfo-Morales' first day at the evacuation center, she explained to Maria Lopez how to get food, clothing and financial assistance.

Until then, Lopez had relied on her three sons to tell her what officials were saying. Her sons speak Spanish and little English.

Lopez, 54, said she was confused about the evacuation orders. She felt sad and frustrated not being able to understand fire and police officials or ask them questions.

"My children would only tell me we needed to leave our home," Lopez said in Mixteco while Adolfo-Morales interpreted.

Lopez wondered what she would face when she returned home. She and her husband worried about not having work in the strawberry fields, which were flooded, and not being able to pay their $2,500 monthly rent and other bills.

Lopez was one of three Mixteco speakers Adolfo-Morales helped that Thursday afternoon. She said that sometimes her ability to communicate was limited by the diversity of Indigenous languages — there are dozens of variations of Mixteco, often revolving around people's hometowns. At times, she struggles to interpret English words that don't exist in Mixteco, such as medical and legal jargon.

Adolfo-Morales grew up interpreting and translating for her family. But at school, some students taunted her in Spanish, calling her "little Oaxacan girl" and stringing gibberish words together in a Mixteco accent, she said.

"It was offensive to me, but I've learned to embrace and love my culture now," she said

When she learned about the L.A. City Hall audio leak scandal and what a council member said about Oaxacans, she felt disappointed.

Dori Rose Inda, chief executive of Salud Para La Gente, said the pool of Indigenous translators has changed over the last few decades.

Before, many bilingual people lacked legal status and couldn't be employed.

Now, as the children of Indigenous farmworkers become adults, it's not uncommon to meet young people in their 20s like Adolfo-Morales who speak English, Spanish and Mixteco.

Among them is 21-year-old Edward Salvador, who was born in Watsonville and also volunteered at the fairgrounds. He said that evacuees were often surprised when they asked him questions and he responded in their own language.

"I'm sure it's a relief for them to be able to communicate their needs in their language," he said.

Like Adolfo-Morales, Salvador interpreted for his parents at doctor's appointments and filled out forms for them that were only provided in English or Spanish. After experiencing firsthand the lack of resources available to families like his, Salvador decided to become a certified interpreter.

At the fairgrounds, Maria Martinez wore the bright yellow vest that marked her as an interpreter. Above "Maria M.," her name tag read "Mixteco interpreter" in English.

As an interpreter for the Pajaro Valley Unified School District, Martinez was there to help families with paperwork related to school enrollment.

But often, she was flagged down by people who needed help with food, laundry and the shelter's on-site clinic.

"A lot of the families here need support," she said.

Community organizers are frustrated that local governments have not done more to address the language needs in the Central Valley. Still, they say some progress has been made.

They cite the interpreters at the fairgrounds, as well as televised news conferences in which Monterey County officials gave emergency response information in English, Spanish and Mixteco.

Leonor Mendoza was the Mixteco interpreter at one of the news conferences. It was important for the Mixteco community to receive vital information — and hearing their native tongue in an official setting made them feel visible, she said. Still, she worried that other languages were not included.

"We should have done it in multiple [Indigenous] languages so as to not leave others out," Mendoza said. "So, I felt a little bit frustrated, but I also told myself this was a step in the right direction."

Mendoza had grown up without learning Mixteco — her parents decided not to teach her because they feared discrimination, which is common against Indigenous people both in Mexico and the U.S.

Then, at 9, she returned to San Martín Peras, Oaxaca, unable to speak to any relatives except her grandfather, who knew Spanish. She eventually picked up Mixteco from him.

At 13, she migrated to the U.S., with her parents chasing strawberry work between Oxnard and Salinas. By then, she was already interpreting for her parents, including when her mother suffered a stroke while crossing the border.

When the pandemic hit, she volunteered to interpret for Indigenous families.

She said people recognize her from the news conference: "You're that lady from TV," they say.

She hopes that they, and their children, see her as a Mixtec woman who is proud to speak their language.

"I think that moment served a purpose: that families should keep teaching their language to the next generation for them to pass on," she said.

Twitter suspends anti-cop account

By Richard Winton
and Libor Jany

PATRICK T. FALLON For The Times

THE ACCOUNT @killercop1984 is on halt after the L.A. police union sued the killercop.com site owner.

Twitter has suspended the social media account of an anti-police website for violating its rules against inciting violence after a union for Los Angeles police sued the owner of the website that offers a "bounty" for the killing of police officers.

The Twitter account @killercop1984 was suspended after the Los Angeles Police Protective League last week sued the owner of the "killer cop" website, accusing him of publishing their photos on his website and putting out a "bounty" on them.

In a tweet mentioned in the lawsuit, the site's owner, Steven Sutcliffe, who posts under the handle @killercop1984, allegedly wrote, "Remember, #Rewards are double all year for #detectives and #female cops." The tweet included an image of a monetary reward for killing an LAPD officer, the lawsuit says.

Sutcliffe has repeatedly defended his right to criticize the LAPD. "They are trying to silence my free speech. The truth cannot be retaliatory. It is 1st Amendment protected speech," he told The Times last week.

"We are appreciative of Twitter acting swiftly to take down this dangerous website that called for the murder of Los Angeles police officers," Craig Lally, president of the Los Angeles Police Protective League that represents LAPD officers, said in a statement. "This was not about freedom of speech or public discourse, this was about protecting officers and their families and for that we are grateful that this site is suspended."

The lawsuit is the first legal action stemming from the LAPD's release of the names and photos of almost every sworn officer — more than 9,300 officers, including some who work undercover — as part of a public records request. The department did not intend to release the information about undercover police. A police watchdog group posted the images online earlier this month.

Mayor Karen Bass in a tweet over the weekend called the release "an unacceptable breach that put lives of our officers and their families at risk" and said she expects a "full accounting" of how it happened.

The lawsuit, filed Friday on behalf of Officers Adam Gross, Adrian Rodriguez and Douglas Panameno, asks that the photos and other identifying information be taken down from the killercop.com site.

According to the suit, a later tweet on the account allegedly included a link to a database of officer photos, along with the caption, "Clean head-shots on these #LAPD officers. A to Z."

The plaintiffs in the lawsuit against Sutcliffe claim that the alleged threats, combined with their photos being circulated online, have caused them emotional distress.

Sutcliffe has run into legal trouble before for online threats. In 2003, he was convicted in federal court of felony charges of using a website he had created to threaten executives at Global Crossing Ltd., a fiber-optic network company in Beverly Hills from which he was twice fired.

The photo database of officers was turned over by LAPD officials in response to a public records request by a journalist with the nonprofit newsroom Knock LA, then posted online by Stop LAPD Spying Coalition, a group that wants to abolish traditional law enforcement but in the interim has pushed for radical transparency.

The "Watch the Watchers" database includes each officer's name, ethnicity, rank, date of hire, division/bureau and badge number, and photo.

After the site's launch, department leaders revealed that they had inadvertently released photos of officers working undercover and began an internal investigation to determine how the mistake occurred. Sources have said that the undercover officers whose identities were compromised may number in the dozens, if not hundreds.

Police union sues Moore

[**Suit,** from B1]

the city determines which of those officers' images should be excluded for security reasons.

After the site's launch this month, department leaders revealed that they had inadvertently released photos of officers working undercover as part of a disclosure required under the California Public Records Act. LAPD sources who were not authorized to discuss the matter have said undercover officers whose identities were compromised number in the dozens, if not hundreds.

Rico said the lawsuit would give those officers who believe their positions put them in potential danger "the ability to have redress in court and address the court to have their photographs and names clawed back. That's a legal term."

He said the union has a broader definition of "undercover" than the public: "any officer who's working in a true undercover or other sensitive assignment. For example, we have officers that surveil. They're not undercover, in other words, they don't have disguises, they didn't have beards grown out. But they do work on details surveilling home invasion robbers, people that are involved in potential domestic terrorism."

The league's proposed exclusions would extend to officers who had previously worked undercover, he said.

Rico acknowledged that the photos had already spread far beyond Watch the Watchers into other corners of the internet. But, he said, the union wants the court to "fashion a remedy" to scrub the photos of undercover officers as they surface online.

Hamid Khan, a coordinator with the Stop the LAPD Spying Coalition, called the union's filing a clear "assault on people's rights to access" information necessary to hold the LAPD accountable. The coalition wants to abolish traditional law enforcement but in the interim has pushed for what it calls radical transparency.

In the lawsuit filed Tuesday, the police union alleges negligence by the LAPD and said it was forced to sue the city and Moore after they refused to take legal action to prevent further disclosure of undercover officers' photos

The suit asks a judge to require the city "to undertake any and all necessary legal and/or equitable action to prevent further disclosure of undercover officer photographs, including but not limited to securing the unlawfully disclosed photographs from the CPRA recipient, and ensuring such photographs are never publicly disclosed in the future."

> 'Free speech is the oxygen of civil society. We cannot allow courts to silence protected speech.'
>
> — David Loy, 1st Amendment Coalition

The union is asking for a preliminary injunction and immediate temporary restraining order to prevent what it described as further harm pending a final judgment in the case.

On Friday, Moore said he has taken steps to address the safety concerns of those whose photos were released. "We erred in the sense that there's photographs that are in there that should not have been in there," Moore said in an interview. "Now, but that ship has sailed."

Moore declined to comment Tuesday, saying he had not seen the lawsuit.

The union has already filed a formal complaint against Moore and Lizabeth Rhodes, director of the LAPD's Office of Constitutional Policing.

Moore has asked the inspector general to take over the inquiry into the release of the data to avoid a conflict of interest.

Mayor Karen Bass in a tweet over the weekend called the release "an unacceptable breach that put the lives of our officers and their families at risk" and said she expects a "full accounting" of how it happened.

But free-speech experts say the union's argument for obtaining a court order is part of a long history of efforts to block the press from publishing sensitive material through "prior restraint."

Such protections, established in the landmark 1931 U.S. Supreme Court decision Near vs. Minnesota, extend even to materials that were accidentally released, according to David Loy, legal director for the 1st Amendment Coalition.

Legal arguments against the publication of lawfully obtained documents are "virtually always unconstitutional," Loy said."Obviously names and identities of people drawing a public paycheck is an issue of public concerns. Whether or not the LAPD messed up" is a different matter.

"The 1st Amendment does not defend itself, and there's never any shortage of people trying to silence others from speaking out, whether it's law enforcement or somebody else," Loy said. "Free speech is the oxygen of civil society. We cannot allow courts to silence protected speech, because if we allow this sort of prior restraint, where is it going to stop?"

Multiple LAPD sources not authorized to discuss the photo controversy said Rhodes, who oversaw the photo disclosure, should have ensured that any officer working in an undercover capacity was excluded.

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WALLY SKALIJ Los Angeles Times

MEMBERS OF Local 99 of the Service Employees International Union, supported by the teachers union, listen to speakers at Los Angeles Historic State Park on Thursday, the last day of their three-day strike.

Strike may not have been legal, labor panel says

Board clears way for L.A. Unified's case against two unions to move to hearing stage.

By Howard Blume

The three-day strike that shut down public schools in Los Angeles may have been illegal, according to complaints issued by state regulators, clearing the way for the district's case against the two unions that walked out to move to a formal hearing.

The actions by the California Public Employment Relations Board do not represent a determination that the unions acted illegally. Instead regulators concluded that the Los Angeles Unified School District made a strong enough case to move to the next stage in the legal process.

The strike took place March 21-23. The labor board issued a complaint against one participating union on March 21 and the other on March 22, but neither the school district nor the unions announced the regulatory action at the time.

Shortly after, on March 24, L.A. Unified and Local 99 of Service Employees International Union reached a tentative agreement. Sometimes, disputes that reach the labor board are dropped as part of a contract resolution, but that has not happened so far.

The strike was led by Local 99, which represents about 30,000 school-district employees including bus drivers, food-service workers, teacher aides, special-education assistants, custodians and security aides. United Teachers Los Angeles urged its members to participate in the strike, a collaboration that, according to the school system, forced the shutdown of schools. UTLA represents about 35,000 teachers, therapists, counselors, nurses and librarians.

The labor board issued a separate action, called a complaint, against each union even though the cases are intertwined because of the joint strike.

Ellen Wu, an outside attorney for L.A. Unified, said a final legal determination on the district's labor board cases is important to provide accountability for following state law, even though the strike has come and gone.

Because the unions walked out before completing the negotiation process, "not only have innocent children and their families been held hostage and suffered terribly," she said, but the unions have "put LAUSD in an impossible situation."

"If this violation has no consequences or remedies, then there is no negotiation process to follow in the future for any union," Wu said.

A Local 99 spokesperson criticized the school district's pursuit of the labor board case.

"This is yet another attempt by LAUSD to silence the voices of workers," said Blanca Gallegos. "The three-day strike proved that workers will not be stopped in their demands for respect."

In a statement, UTLA said that "instead of wasting time on legal maneuvers over the last two weeks that didn't prevent a strike, LAUSD should have been focused on resolving the issues and respecting their employees."

The next step in the labor board process would be a trial before an administrative law judge, which could happen in the next month or so, said J. Felix De La Torre, general counsel for the labor board. In such a proceeding, the school district would present evidence that the strike was illegal. The unions would then present evidence that it was proper. The judge would issue a ruling and, if L.A. Unified prevailed, would impose a remedy.

It's not clear what that remedy would be.

Local 99's legal basis for the strike was to protest alleged unfair practices by the school system. The union has accused the district of impeding the union and employees from exercising legally protected, union-related activities. The district has generally denied wrongdoing, but has not yet responded to every one of the more than a dozen cases filed by the union.

The district has filed its own cases against the unions, and last week's labor board action relates to those filed with the board on March 17, a last-ditch effort to avoid the strike that began March 21. District officials asked the labor board to issue an immediate injunction to prevent the walkout.

The board declined to do so — and it would have been extremely unusual for it to intervene in this way without a careful review of evidence, legal experts have said.

Union leaders declared this lack of intervention as a victory — and it was, in that it allowed the strike to go forward. But the case remained active. The board authorized an "expedited" review, and that did nothing to shorten the strike, but the review did proceed.

According to the complaint, the current bargaining cycle with Local 99 began Feb. 16, 2022, and by late December the two parties "started participating in impasse procedures," part of a required step-by-step process that has yet to be completed.

Staging a strike under these circumstances is illegal, according to the complaint.

The case, if it isn't settled, will hinge on whether the events leading up to the strike justify an unfair-practice walkout or whether the unfair-practice allegations were simply a pretext to stage a strike as a pressure tactic.

The complaint issued against the teachers union describes a similar scenario, although the teachers union and district are not as far along in bargaining.

Soldier's remains verified 70 years later

Carmen Carrillo of Lompoc was 20 when he was presumed killed in Korean War.

By Paloma Esquivel

U.S. Army Cpl. Carmen Carrillo of Lompoc, Calif., was 20 years old when he was reported missing in action during the Korean War. Now, more than 70 years later, his remains have been identified, according to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency.

Carrillo was seriously wounded in battle in South Korea in February 1951. He returned to duty two months later, according to information listed by the American Battle Monuments Commission.

One month after his return, Carrillo was reported missing in action. His unit had been fighting in Hongcheon, South Korea, in the central sector of a U.N. defensive line known as the "No Name Line."

The specific circumstances of his death are still unknown. Carrillo served in Headquarters Co., 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division.

In December 1953, the Army added Carrillo to its list of soldiers who were presumed dead.

Then in 2013, more than six decades after he went missing, Carrillo's remains, along with those of several others, were recovered in South Korea and returned to the U.S. In 2021, the remains were disinterred for testing, and in February, laboratory analysis "and the totality of the circumstantial evidence available" established one set of remains as Carrillo's, according to the agency.

Carrillo will be buried in Lompoc, though a date for the burial has not yet been determined, the agency said.

His name is listed on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu. Now that his remains have been identified, a rosette will be placed next to his name, signifying that he has been accounted for, the agency said.

Since 1982, the remains of more than 450 U.S. citizens killed in the Korean War have been identified and returned to their families for burial. More than 7,600 remain unaccounted for, according to the agency.

San Diego County official ends bid for state Senate

By Kristen Taketa and Karen Kucher

San Diego County Supervisor Nathan Fletcher announced Sunday he would be seeking treatment for post-traumatic stress and alcohol abuse and ending his state Senate campaign.

In a statement he posted on Twitter, Fletcher said he planned to check into an extended inpatient treatment center this week on the recommendation of his therapist and the insistence of his wife, Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher, a former Assembly member.

"I have no doubt I will not only make a full recovery, but will come back stronger, more connected and present," Fletcher wrote. "However, it is clear I need to focus on my health and my family and do not have the energy to simultaneously pursue a campaign for the state Senate."

Fletcher, 46, was elected to the county Board of Supervisors in 2018. He attributed his "devastating post traumatic stress" to combat he faced during his stint in the Marine Corps and "intense childhood trauma" that was worsened by alcohol abuse.

Before his election to the Assembly in 2008, Fletcher served combat tours in Iraq, Africa and the Near East, according to his office biography.

In his statement, Fletcher said he had shared some of his challenges publicly but said "they run much deeper than I have acknowledged."

"Outwardly, I have projected calm and composure. Internally, I have been waging a struggle that only those closest to me have seen; the detrimental impact on my relationships, mood and inability to sleep," Fletcher wrote. "I have to seek help."

San Diego Union-Tribune

NATHAN FLETCHER plans to seek treatment for post-traumatic stress and alcohol abuse.

While Fletcher is in treatment, he said his supervisor's office will continue to work with constituents.

Fletcher largely was the face of the county's response as the COVID-19 pandemic began, taking center stage at most of the county's daily public briefings. Three years after joining the board in 2018, Fletcher became the first Democrat to serve as board chairman in more than three decades — and ended up serving as chair in back-to-back years.

Fletcher became the target of criticism and threats as one of the most visible local officials supporting lockdowns, vaccinations and mask mandates during the pandemic. The home he and his wife share in the City Heights neighborhood was damaged in a fire Jan. 12, 2022, that was deemed "suspicious" by investigators.

The couple and their children got out safely after being awakened by smoke alarms around 4 a.m. The front door of the home was in flames, and the family escaped through another door. The fire caused an estimated $35,000 in damage to the house and a car parked nearby. An arson investigation into the blaze is ongoing, and no arrests have been made, San Diego Police Sgt. Rick Pechin said Monday.

As a county supervisor, Fletcher also championed mental health reforms. His term runs through 2026.

Fletcher served in the Assembly from 2008 to 2012 as a Republican. He left the Republican Party to become an independent when he unsuccessfully ran for San Diego mayor in 2012, and eventually became a Democrat.

It was just seven weeks ago that Fletcher launched his campaign for the state Senate District 39 seat held by Toni Atkins, the Senate president pro tempore, who is termed out in two years.

"From leading one of the most effective COVID responses in the nation to leading Marines in combat, I've never shied away from taking on the toughest fights," Fletcher said when announcing his campaign. "I'm running for state Senate to deliver higher wages, a lower cost of living, and a fundamentally fair shot at a better life that every San Diego County family deserves."

He had already amassed nearly $1 million in his campaign fund and picked up the backing of a number of groups and individuals.

Gonzalez Fletcher also took to Twitter on Sunday night, posting a response to her husband's announcement: "I love my husband and appreciate his willingness to put our family first."

Taketa and Kucher write for the San Diego Union-Tribune.

Woman targeted in social media prank hospitalized

By Salvador Hernandez

It was supposed to be a social media prank, police said, but a Tustin mother of twins passed out and was hospitalized after she was the unwitting target of the stunt.

"This is not OK," said Lana Clay-Monaghan, 35, who said she was shopping at Target in Tustin by herself when someone put a bucket over her head. "I was fearful for my life, but I could hear laughing behind me."

The incident occurred Sunday at about 2:45 p.m. at a Target store at 2300 Park Ave., according to Tustin Police.

Clay-Monaghan said she'd been at the store for about 10 minutes, leaning down to look at baby wipes and bathing soap for her twins when everything went suddenly dark.

"All of a sudden my vision, my hearing was obstructed," she said.

She thought she was alone in the aisle, she said, so the feeling of something being placed over her head frightened her.

She screamed and flailed her arms, tossing the object off her head, she said.

"I turned to my left and when I turned around it was a group of males filming me," she said, noting that she distinctly noticed two or four males pointing their phones at her.

The stunt is a popular prank on social media apps like TikTok and Instagram, repeated in the aisles of retail stores. A bucket or basket is placed over the head of an unsuspecting shopper, while their reaction is recorded and posted online.

But on Sunday afternoon, Clay-Monaghan said the shock and fear caused her to lose consciousness, black out and fall to the floor.

"I started to say, 'Help me,' when I fell to the ground," she said. "My last memory is people laughing at me."

The Tustin mother of 8-month-old twins said she was taken to a hospital where she was told she suffered an "acute heart issue" that caused her to pass out.

Tustin Police in a statement said four male juveniles — not yet identified — were seen grabbing a bucket they put over Clay-Monaghan's head.

"Several seconds later the juveniles are seen fleeing the store," the statement read.

Lana Clay-Monaghan

AFTER having a bucket placed over her head while shopping, Lana Clay-Monaghan was hospitalized.

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Los Angeles Times

LEGAL NOTICES 1300

Legal Notices

$50,000 REWARD NOTICE

The City of Los Angeles offers a reward payable at the discretion of the City Council to one or more persons in the sum or sums up to an aggregate maximum total sum of $50,000 for information leading to the identification and apprehension of the person or persons responsible for the DEATH OF DAVON PLEDGER, in the city of Los Angeles On May 9, 2020, at approximately 10:40 p.m., 26-year old Davon Pledger was standing outside a friend's house on Cornelius Street in Pacoima, when three Hispanic males approached him in a dark-colored Honda Civic. These unknown individuals then opened fire on Mr. Pledger, striking him 16 times and fatally wounding him. Detectives are continuing to investigate this crime but have not been able to identify any leads. The detectives believe a reward may compel member of the public to provide information on the persons responsible for this crime. The person or persons responsible for this crime represent an ongoing threat to the safety of the people of Los Angeles; therefore, it is appropriate for the City of Los Angeles to offer a reward for information leading to the identification, apprehension and conviction of the person or persons responsible for this crime. Unless withdrawn or paid by City Council action, this offer of reward shall terminate on, and have no effect after, September 29, 2023. The provisions of payment and all other considerations shall be governed by Chapter 12 of Division 19 of the LAAC Code, as amended by Ordinance Nos. 158157 and 166666. This offer shall be given upon the condition that claimants continued cooperation within the criminal justice system relative to this case and is not available to public officers or employees of the City, their families, persons in law enforcement or persons whose misconduct prompted this reward. If you have any information regarding this case, please call the Los Angeles Police Department at 1-877-LAPD-24-7, 24 hours. C. F. No. 20-0010-S11.

3/29/23

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SUMMONS
(CITACION JUDICIAL)
Case Number (Numero del Caso): 23STLC00473

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:
(AVISO AL DEMANDADO):
Leslie Vinson

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF:
(LO ESTA DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):
Casa Palmero HOA

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web Site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of $10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.

¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 dias, la corte puede decider en su contra sin escuchar su version. Lea la informacion a continuacion.

Tiene 30 DIAS DE CALENDARIO despues de que le entreguen esta citacion y papeles legales para presenter una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefonica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y mas informacion en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede mas cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentacion, pida al secretario de la corte que le de un formulario de exencion de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podra quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin mas advertencia.

The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y direccion de la corte es):
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, Central District, Spring Street Courthouse
111 N Hill Street
Los Angeles , CA 90012

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la direccion y el numero de telefono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):
Joseph C. Watson, Esq.
930 Westbourne Drive, Ste. 410
West Hollywood, CA 90069
323-333-6286

Date: (Fecha) 01/23/2023

David W. Slayton Clerk (Secretario)
F. Ochoa Deputy (Adjunto)

SUMMONS
(CITACION JUDICIAL)
Case Number (Numero del Caso): 22STCV34672

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:
(AVISO AL DEMANDADO):
HALEY MARIE CARROLL, an individual;

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF:
(LO ESTA DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):
RCP FINANCIAL, INC., a California stock corporation; 7M FILMS, INC., a California stock corporation; SHEKINAH CHURCH, a California nonprofit corporation; ROBERT ISREAL SHINN, an individual; and HANNAH GRACE SHINN, an individual;

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

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The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y direccion de la corte es):
The Superior Court of Los Angeles-Stanley Mosk Courthouse
111 North Hill Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la direccion y el numero de telefono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):
Daniel R. Gutenplan, Enenstein Pham & Glass
650 Town Center Drive, Suite 840
Costa Mesa, CA 92626; (714) 292-0262
Link to the Complaint: https://www.dropbox.com/s/fqam25q4lwahypd/2022.10.28%20Plaintiffs%27%20Complaint%20%2800469277%29.pdf?dl=0

Date: (Fecha) 10-28-2022

Sherri R. Carter Clerk (Secretario)
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JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DHIEC
☐○○○☐

TWYIT
○○☐☐☐

TCLATE
☐○○○☐☐

FNTESO
○☐☐○☐○

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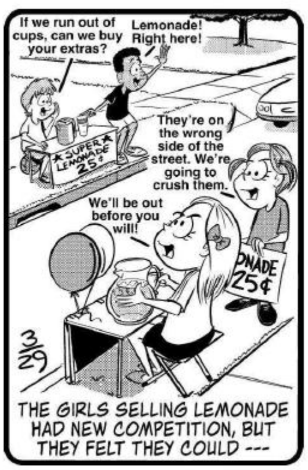
If we run out of cups, can we buy your extras?
Lemonade! Right here!
SUPER LEMONADE 25¢
They're on the wrong side of the street. We're going to crush them.
We'll be out before you will!
NADE 25¢
3/29

THE GIRLS SELLING LEMONADE HAD NEW COMPETITION, BUT THEY FELT THEY COULD ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

○○○○○○○○○ ○○

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love is...
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...all we have — but it's all we need!

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PUBLIC NOTICE

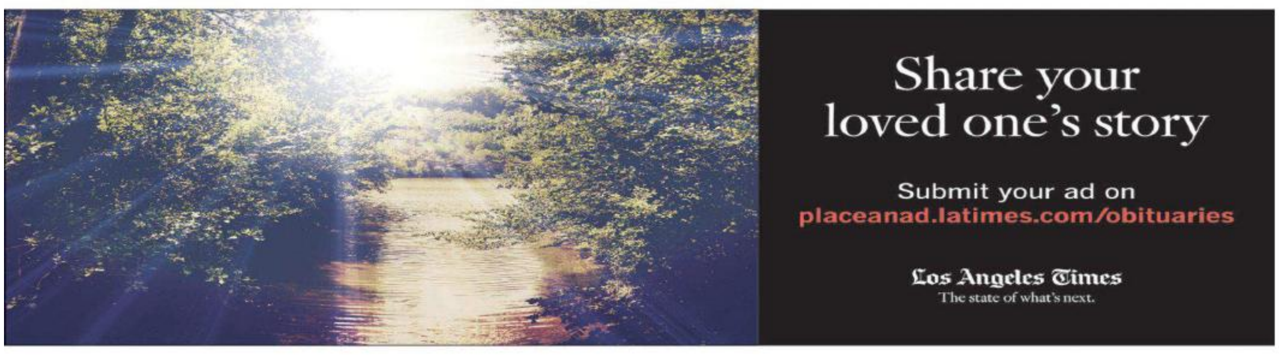
Former Marine Corps Air Station Tustin
Restoration Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday, 12 April 2023 from 6:00–7:30 P.M.
Tustin Area Senior Center
200 S. C Street
Tustin, CA 92780

The Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Base Realignment and Closure Office (NAVFAC BRAC PMO) announces an in-person meeting of the Former Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Tustin Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) at the Tustin Area Senior Center. NAVFAC BRAC PMO will provide updates on environmental restoration activities, including recent actions taken to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

The details of the meeting are posted to this website: **https://go.usa.gov/xhYpK**

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have any questions or wish to discuss any project, please contact the following: Elizabeth Roddy, BRAC Environmental Coordinator, BRAC Program Management Office West, 33000 Nixie Way, Bldg. 50, Suite 207, San Diego, CA 92147; (619) 524-4048; Elizabeth.a.roddy3.civ@us.navy.mil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Los Angeles Times
The state of what's next.

Newsom fell short in Big Oil fight but scored political win

[**Newsom,** from B1]

knowledged that it would take time for Californians to feel the effects of the law: "Nothing is going to happen in the short term," he said. "Gas prices are not going to drop immediately."

David McCuan, chair of the political science department at Sonoma State, said the special session is emblematic of Newsom's strengths and his weaknesses.

Newsom has a tendency to try to "go it alone" and drive an agenda before he's crafted a policy, which often forces him to backpedal, McCuan said.

When the governor announced in October his intent to call a special session in December, he told reporters he was still getting his "ducks in a row" on what he then described as a plan to pass a tax on oil companies.

Yet even as he jumps in front with political statements that lack policy details, Newsom has shown a knack for generating headlines and getting ahead of other politicians.

His well-timed words announcing the special session garnered attention across the country. The governor laid blame on the oil industry, just a month before his reelection, as Golden State voters were steamed over near record-high gas prices that topped $6 a gallon.

"This is the symbolic politics over substantive policies," McCuan said of Newsom's special session.

Newsom's aides disagree with criticism that the governor retreated. The legislative process, they argue, worked as intended and resulted in the best policy possible. The new plan also gives more power to the Energy Commission and all five members have been either appointed or reappointed by the governor.

After reviewing his original idea, California leaders learned that they needed more information and transparency from the industry in order to understand the market and determine whether a penalty is necessary.

Anthony York, a spokesman for the governor, also argued that politics are more than just symbolic. Newsom's efforts to call out the oil industry are a key component of his policy agenda.

"California has been a global leader on pushing toward clean energy, and our success on making that transition depends largely on our ability to weaken the political power of the oil lobby," York said. "We have to end the vice grip that they've had on our politics for decades."

State Sen. Nancy Skinner (D-Berkeley), who wrote the bill, called it "the strongest, most-effective transparency and oversight measure in the nation."

"This landmark law will allow us to hold oil companies accountable if they pad their profits at the expense of hard-working families," she said at the bill-signing ceremony.

Though Newsom may not have gotten everything he wanted from the Legislature, he deserves to take a victory lap for what he did achieve, said Roger Salazar, a Democratic political consultant and former press secretary to Gov. Gray Davis.

"Sometimes when you shoot for the stars, you get the moon. And that seems to be the case here," Salazar said.

"He obviously wanted to make a bold statement about the oil industry at a time when a lot of Californians were feeling the pinch. ... But I think he's also pragmatic and a realist. And given the bounds of what was possible, I think he's going to be right to paint it as a success."

Salazar said the legislation could serve to give Newsom bragging rights on a national level.

"That kind of accomplishment, while it may not be what he set his sights on, is a couple of steps further than most other states have been able to do," he said.

Environmental advocates expect Newsom to use the new transparency law to tout his bona fides as a warrior against Big Oil — and see that as an opening to push him to further restrict oil drilling in California.

Officials in Newsom's administration have continued to approve permits for oil-drilling projects near homes and schools. The governor signed a law to ban new oil and gas wells in such sensitive locations, which is now on hold until voters weigh in on a referendum next year.

"There's a big discrepancy here with regard to how they're publicly holding the oil and gas industry to account versus what the agency is actually doing," said Brandon Dawson, director of Sierra Club California, which supports the new transparency law.

"It's a weird, unique balance, but how he uses it politically won't be without scrutiny from the environmental community. I can tell you that."

Mary Creasman, chief executive of California Environmental Voters, said the bill sets the state down a path to regulating the industry and limiting oil profits, which she called "the end game."

"It's a really important step and shines a really important light on a corrupt industry in order to protect consumers, and there's more steps in the process," Creasman said. "There's more work to be done."

The powerful oil industry lobbied against the proposal, arguing that it would only make it more difficult for refiners to operate in California.

GOP Assemblyman Vince Fong, who represents the oil-rich Bakersfield region, called on lawmakers to reject the bill Monday before Democrats sent it to Newsom.

Fong criticized the approach, saying policies "that we pass in this body must be grounded in economic reality, not to create political headlines."

McCuan said Newsom can get away with over-promising and under-delivering in California, where the governor has no serious political challengers and Democrats in the Legislature largely seek to get along with him.

But McCuan said that will begin to change if Newsom looks beyond California and faces competition for his next stage. Newsom has repeatedly denied any interest in the White House.

Sean Clegg, Newsom's top political strategist, said the bill gives state regulators "the hammer to hit" oil companies when they cross the line. And that's more than any other state has done.

"When you're taking big transformative swings, you have to lead from the front," Clegg said. "He's going to be the first governor in America to hold the oil industry accountable for price gouging."

Americans can expect to hear more of that.

Lottery results

Tonight's SuperLotto Plus Jackpot: $45 million
Sales close at 7:45 p.m.

Tonight's Powerball Jackpot:
$132 million
Sales close at 7 p.m.

For Monday, March 27, 2023

Powerball
Powerball number is **bold**

19-26-36-43-58—**Powerball 14**
Jackpot: $122 million

California winners per category:

	No. of winners	Amount of prize(s)
5 + P-ball	0	—
5	0	—
4 + P-ball	0	—
4	24	$423
3 + P-ball	67	$157
3	1,592	$7
2 + P-ball	1,323	$8
1 + P-ball	9,822	$5
P-ball only	23,799	$4

Winning jackpot ticket(s) sold in other states: None

For Tuesday, March 28, 2023

Mega Millions
Mega number is **bold**

2-3-18-32-68—**Mega 24**
Jackpot: $322 million

Fantasy Five: 1-14-18-22-35

Daily Four: 8-6-2-9

Daily Three (midday): 8-0-5

Daily Three (evening): 3-6-3

Daily Derby:
(10) Solid Gold
(3) Hot Shot
(8) Gorgeous George
Race time: 1:42.80

Results on the internet:
www.latimes.com/lottery
General information:
(800) 568-8379
(Results not available at this number)

More rain, snow for waterlogged California

[**Storm,** from B1]

The San Francisco Bay Area, where power outages and at least five deaths were reported during last week's storm, was experiencing showers Tuesday morning when it was shaken by a 3.5 magnitude earthquake.

The system was expected to strengthen over Sonoma, Marin and Napa counties, as well as the San Francisco Peninsula, throughout the day. The San Francisco Bay Ferry reported service disruptions as conditions grew stormier. Thunderstorms and hail were reported near San Francisco International Airport.

Wind gusts up to 50 mph were possible in the Bay Area and along the Central Coast, with 1 to 2 inches of rain and low-elevation snow. Up to 7 inches of snow could fall near the peaks of the Santa Lucia Mountains.

Farther inland, the Sacramento Valley and Sierra Nevada were bracing for widespread rain and heavy mountain snow. Strong winds Tuesday afternoon brought down trees and power lines throughout Placer County, officials said, and about 2,200 people were without power.

The Sierra could receive up to 4 feet of fresh powder, while the northern Coast Ranges and Shasta County mountains could see up to 3 feet, said Chelsea Peters, a meteorologist with the weather service in Sacramento.

"We had a couple of weeks' break there in late January and into February, but otherwise, it's kind of been nonstop," she said of the state's wet season. "This winter has been abnormally wet overall, and then, on top of that, significantly anomalous in terms of the snowfall that we've seen, particularly in the Sierra."

Statewide snowpack on Tuesday was 227% of normal for the date, according to state data. In the southern Sierra, it was 284% of normal — an all-time record.

Peters said the incoming snow will continue to add to hazards and travel risks in mountain areas.

"There are pretty heavy snowfall rates expected — generally 2 to 4 inches an hour, which is not good driving conditions," she said, adding that travel plans in the mountains should be rescheduled.

The storm is expected to move into Southern California on Wednesday afternoon and continue into Thursday. Coastal and valley locations from San Luis Obispo to Los Angeles could get up to an inch of rain, while hills and mountain areas could see up to 2 inches.

The storm will also deliver up to 8 inches of snow at elevations above 5,000 feet. Mountains in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties could get up to 14 inches, with 18 inches possible in the L.A. County mountains.

> 'It's been a hell of a year in California weather, and it isn't over yet.'
>
> — Daniel Swain, climate scientist at UCLA

A winter weather advisory will be in effect from early Wednesday morning through Thursday for the Santa Barbara and Ventura County mountains and into the Interstate 5 corridor of the L.A. County mountains. A winter storm watch has been added for the San Gabriel Mountains.

In Southern California, "isolated thunderstorms with brief heavy downpours, gusty winds and small hail remain a possibility, especially Wednesday and Thursday," forecasters said.

Much of the focus remains on the Central Valley, where residents continue to deal with the effects of severe floods brought on as rain and snowmelt swell rivers.

Gov. Gavin Newsom on Tuesday afternoon requested a presidential declaration of major disaster for the counties of Calaveras, Kern, Los Angeles, Mariposa, Monterey, San Benito, Santa Cruz, Tulare and Tuolumne. If approved, the declaration could boost emergency response and recovery efforts in communities affected by storm-related flooding, debris flows, snow and avalanches.

Evacuation warnings remain in effect in parts of Porterville, Allensworth and other areas of Tulare County along the Tule River. Officials have expressed concern about severe flooding as the deep Sierra snow melts in the coming weeks.

Tulare Lake — which was drained in the late 19th and early 20th centuries to divert more water for agriculture — has already begun to reemerge as floodwater swallows fields, orchards and low-lying towns.

The Central Valley is expected to receive up to half an inch of rain, while the southern Sierra could see 4 feet of snow at elevations above 5,000 feet, according to Josue Chamberlain, a meteorologist with the weather service in Hanford.

"It's been a wet and snowy winter, but this storm system seems to be more moderate compared to the last system," Chamberlain said. Still, avalanche watches are in effect until Wednesday morning in Mono County, the eastern Sierra slopes of Inyo County and the Lake Tahoe area.

A flood watch that began at 5 p.m. Tuesday will continue until 4 a.m. Thursday in much of the Central Valley, from Bakersfield to Modesto. Officials continue to monitor levees around Alpaugh and Allensworth, said Jeffery McLaughlin, deputy chief with the Tulare County Fire Department.

The storm arrives on the heels of a winter and early spring that have eased drought conditions but tested the state's residents with extreme weather, including flooding, tornadoes and deadly blizzards.

Conditions are expected to clear briefly after the storm, but another could hit the state sometime between Sunday night and Tuesday, forecasters said.

"It's been a hell of a year in California weather, and it isn't over yet," said UCLA's Swain. "There's still more to come."

Myung J. Chun Los Angeles Times

ISOLATED THUNDERSTORMS with brief downpours, gusty winds and small hail are possible for Southern California on Wednesday and Thursday.

State bill would mandate gender-neutral restrooms

[**Bathrooms,** from B1]

verted from existing gender-segregated bathrooms, according to the bill.

"At some point in everybody's day, you have to use the facilities," Newman said. "And if you're a transgender, nonbinary or questioning young person, having to navigate that challenge — especially if you haven't come out to your friends or family — it creates an immense amount of stress, anxiety and even physical pain."

The legislation builds on California's groundbreaking move a decade ago to require that schools allow students to use the bathroom that aligns with their gender identity instead of their assigned sex at birth. Since then, transgender issues have become a major front in national culture wars, with blue states pushing to expand rights and protections for transgender people, and red states passing laws to limit them. Public schools are a frequent target of both the liberal and conservative laws.

Newman's bill would require schools to post signs identifying gender-neutral bathrooms, stock them with menstrual products and provide easy access to them without help from staff. SB 760 does not specify if the restrooms should be designed for one person or with multiple stalls.

"Trans and nonbinary students are not asking for special treatment, " Kennedy said. "They deserve to be safe as their holistic selves at school, and a part of that is being able to use the bathroom just like everybody else."

The California law that requires schools to let students use campus bathrooms in accordance with their gender identity does not require gender-neutral restrooms on campus, Newman said. The idea for a gender-neutral bathroom is that it would be available to any student, regardless of gender identity.

"This bill will provide a safe space for students who identify as trans or nonbinary youth to not fear bullying or harassment, and to have better peace of mind when going to school," said Jorge Reyes Salinas, the communications director at Equality California, a co-sponsor of SB 760.

According to one survey, 45% of LGBTQ and nonbinary students avoid using gender-segregated bathrooms at school because they feel uncomfortable or unsafe. Another study found that youths who experienced bathroom discrimination were about 1½ times more likely to attempt suicide.

Joshua Dineros, a senior studying politics at the University of San Francisco, grew up in California and said he did not feel safe using the restroom during the school day. He came out as trans late in high school and was uncomfortable asking for the key to the gender-neutral bathroom. He brought up these concerns while a part of the state committee studying school bathrooms.

"It's not just an LGBTQ+ issue," Dineros said. "It's an issue about safe schools and bathrooms for all kids on campus to feel like they can use the restroom and not have to wait until they go home."

Some schools in California already offer the types of restrooms the bill would require.

In 2016, the Santee Education Complex became the first school in the Los Angeles Unified School District to open an all-gender bathroom.

But last year, a Long Beach high school paused a neutral locker room project after a small group of community members spoke out against it. And in March, Assemblymember Bill Essayli (R-Corona) introduced AB 1314, which would require California school districts to notify parents that their child is gender-nonconforming or transgender.

"We are seeing constant attacks against trans people, and especially trans youth in schools are becoming a battleground for political attacks," Salinas said.

Greg Burt, the director of California Family Council, a conservative Christian advocacy group, said he is in favor of SB 760 if the gender-neutral bathrooms are limited to single-stall restrooms. But the bill text isn't clear about that, Burt said.

"We are completely against multi-stall bathrooms that any sex can go into," he said. "Once you make the bathroom a place where anybody can go in, both male and female, you're making these bathrooms less safe. You don't want to put them in a space where they could start abusing each other."

Harmeet Dhillon, a Republican party official and San Francisco attorney whose clients include former President Trump, said schools should prioritize academics.

"Our state's failing schools need to focus on performing better in educating the two genders of kids rather than performative virtue signaling," she said in an email. "Girls are entitled to their own private spaces for safety and modesty reasons. If this passes, the gender-neutral bathrooms must not come at the expense of women's safety and privacy rights."

Newman said the bill was written with the presumption that the all-gender bathroom would be converted from a single-use restroom on campus. The aim is to provide private spaces to students without school districts needing to construct new buildings or spend too much, he said.

"We're not endeavoring to create a new category of bathroom that's shared-use by a whole bunch of people," Newman said. "What we're trying to do is solve a very specific problem and give a young person the privacy to relieve themselves."

OBITUARY NOTICES

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Los Angeles Times

BERMAN, Andrea

Mount Sinai Memorial Parks
Simi Valley 800-600-0076
www.mountsinaiparks.org

DEVINE, Tad

Timothy Andrew Devine, known as Tad by all who loved him, passed away peacefully in Newport Beach on March 22, 2023, surrounded by his family. He was 88 years old.

Tad was born in Los Angeles on November 26, 1934. As the son of actor Andy Devine and Dorothy House Devine, Tad's childhood on the family ranch was filled with characters and adventures; from horseback rides and hunts to tall tales and travels on set with his father. Some of his favorite moments were hearing about the brave missions of the Flying Tigers who often visited their family while on leave: this led to Tad's lifelong secret desire to be a pilot.

Tad's talent as a swimmer would define the next chapter of his life. Tad loved surfing and open ocean swimming, and at age 17 was one of the youngest of the Santa Monica Lifeguards. After completing high school in Van Nuys, his success led him to Stanford University where he set multiple swimming records and competed on a national stage, including qualifying for the 1956 Olympic Trials. While narrowly missing the Olympics, Tad was asked to compete for the US Surf Lifesaving Association where he won his division. After Stanford, Tad enlisted in the Navy as a member of the US Navy Underwater Demolition Team.

After achieving the rank of Lt. Commander, Tad completed his naval service and sailed through Tahiti and the South Seas. When he returned to California, Tad was introduced to his beautiful wife, Donna Starling, by his younger brother, Dennis. They were married in 1963 and moved to Newport Beach, where they raised their family and Tad owned a property management company. Tad and Donna spent all of their years together in the same home they purchased in Irvine Terrace in 1965.

Tad's passion for adventure defined his full and happy life. He loved his family and his pals, and was always embarking on a new project. He was a lifelong learner with a fierce curiosity about the world and could talk to anyone about anything. Tad's outgoing personality attracted a wide social circle, and he was a member of many organizations including the Rancheros Vistadores, El Viaje de Portola, Order of Saint Hubertus and the Bohemian Club of San Francisco. He skied, hunted, rode, sailed and traveled all over the world. Tad recently reflected that while growing up he fantasized about all the adventures he'd like to have, and when looking back he was grateful that he actually experienced many of them. He will be deeply missed.

Tad is survived by his wife Donna Starling Devine; children Debra Devine Lee (Richard Lee) and Drew Devine; grandchildren Timothy James (TJ) Morton, Margaret Morton, Ava Devine and Andi Devine; and his brother Dennis Devine and niece Patricia Devine Karlin.

A private celebration of Tad's life will be held in Newport Beach on Friday, March 31 at 2:00pm.

GARBER, Betty Estelle

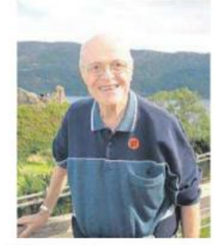
March 27, 1934 - March 25, 2023

The world is a less colorful place today. A renowned interior designer in the hospitality industry for more than 60 years. Betty will be remembered for her meticulous and persnickety work on world-class hotels and residences. Her resume includes work at The Hotel Bel Air, Regent Hotels, Beverly Wilshire, Hong Kong & Manila, Four Seasons New York, and many, many others. She had a passport that rivaled world traveling diplomats. Betty leaves her partner in crime for the past 40 plus years, Sidney Nellis and his family Randy, Robert (Francine) and Jennifer (Norm Neal); Their children Maddie, Eden, Everett, Nick Neal, Daniele Neal; Her sister Joan Adlen, her children Irving (Monica), Deanne Chalk (Alan), Andrew (Julie) and their children Jake, Hannah Chalk, & Ethan Chalk, Sara and Aaron. Numerous friends and colleagues from around the world. Service will take place at Mount Sinai Memorial Park Hollywood Hills Wednesday, March 29th at 2:00PM, because the fur vault at Bullocks Wilshire is no longer available. We will start a few minutes late in Betty's honor. For a link to the online ceremony, please email bettyginfo@gmail.com

Have a piece of See's Dark Chocolate Buttercream in her memory.

HOMER, Diana Chaplin

Mount Sinai Memorial Parks
Hollywood Hills 800-600-0076
www.mountsinaiparks.org



KATZ, Dr. Mervyn

July 27, 1932 - March 9, 2023

Dr. Mervyn Katz "Merv" passed away in Santa Clarita on Thursday, March 9th. Merv was born and raised in the Bronx, New York, the youngest child to Max and Pauline Katz, and baby brother to Ruth, Sylvia and Lillian. At the age of five, Merv, so impressed with a relative who was in medical school, decided he too wanted to become a doctor.

Merv attended college at CCNY with a double major in biology and chemistry. He graduated in 1954 Phi Beta Kappa, Magna Cum Laude. During these years he worked for the U.S. Postal service in Manhattan. In 1954 Merv began medical school at SUNY Downstate Medical School. In the summer of 1957, he was awarded a fellowship at the Veterans Administration Hospital at Fort Hamilton, Brooklyn working for the Polio Foundation in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.

While in medical school, Merv married Elinor Chick. Merv began his internship at Maimonides Medical Center in Brooklyn. He joined the U.S. Air Force from 1959-1961. He was stationed in Cheyenne, Wyoming, where his first two sons were born: Russell Wayne Katz on December 2, 1959 and Daryl Evan Katz on July 30th, 1961.

In the fall of 1961, Merv began his pediatric residency at Children's Hospital in Denver Colorado. In 1962, Merv and his growing family moved back to New York, and he continued his residency at Long Island Jewish Hospital in New Hyde Park New York. He became the Chief of Pediatric Residents in 1963 and 1964 at Beth Israel Hospital in Newark, New Jersey and was boarded in Pediatrics in 1966. On June 30th, 1963 Merv's third son, Andrew Lyle Katz was born. Four years later, on June 27th, 1967, Merv's daughter, Jodi Lynn Katz, was born.

From 1964-1968, Merv worked for Medical Associates in Dover, New Jersey. In 1968 he opened his solo pediatric practice in Parsippany, New Jersey. He and Elinor divorced in 1971. In 1982, tired of the long cold New Jersey winters, Merv sold his practice and moved West. He was hired by Granada Medical Group in Granada Hills and was a partner with the group for many years.

In July of 1989, Merv met Linda Louise Lowe and they were married in Santa Fe, New Mexico on August 28th, 1992 in the garden of a rabbi's home. Later that year they moved into their newly built home in Santa Clarita.

In 1999, Merv, together with two partners, founded All Valley Pediatrics in Mission Hills. In March of 2011, he retired from the partnership and went to work for the Antelope Valley Community Clinic in Palmdale.

Merv was a fellow with the American Academy of Pediatrics and is a member of the California Medical Association, the Los Angeles Pediatric Society, was on staff at Holy Cross Hospital for 25 years and for many years was an Assistant Clinical Professor of Pediatrics at U.C.L.A.

In addition to being the world's best hugger, the undisputed king of dad jokes, puns, and awesome one liners, Dr. Katz was also a sports enthusiast. Merv was preceded in death by his beloved daughter, Jodi Lynn Katz. Merv is survived by his wife, Linda Lowe, his three sons, Russell Katz, Dr. Daryl Katz, and Dr. Andrew Katz, as well as his three stepchildren, Kale, Tracey, and Scott Ruby, and his 15 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. He is loved. He will be missed.

Service to be held at Groman Eden Memorial Park, Friday April 14th, at 11:00 am.

11500 Sepulveda Blvd., Mission Hills, CA 91345. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Doctors Without Borders in memory of Merv.

KROH, Jeff

Mount Sinai Memorial Parks
Hollywood Hills 800-600-0076
www.mountsinaiparks.org

NEWMAN, Felice

Mount Sinai Memorial Parks
Hollywood Hills 800-600-0076
www.mountsinaiparks.org

SPITZ, Louis

Mount Sinai Memorial Parks
Hollywood Hills 800-600-0076
www.mountsinaiparks.org

SPITZ, Louis

Proud son of Henry and Charlotte Spitz, little brother and best friend of Jim Spitz, Lou (92) was the beloved husband of Melinda (and late wife Rita), father of Steven, Jeff, Suzanne and Doug, grandfather of Rachel, Lauren, Sam, Olivia, Aaron, Sumire, and great-grandfather of Ellis and Toiro.

Born in Paterson, New Jersey and named in honor of his grandfather Louis, a department store owner and civic leader, Lou arrived in Hollywood with his family in the 1930s. His father Henry worked in the motion picture industry. A natural athlete with movie star looks, Lou excelled in football, baseball and softball. He graduated from Beverly Hills High School in 1948 and went on to play football at both the University of Oregon and Arizona before graduating from UCLA, where he played rugby and majored in business.

As a 25-year-old Air Force officer during the Korean War Lou developed his legendary power of persuasion. Stationed at Tachikawa Air Base in Japan, Lieutenant Spitz influenced the chain of command to recognize the urgent need for a competitive football program that could beat the vaunted teams stationed at army bases across the islands. Pressed into action as head coach, star player and athletic director, Lou recruited the biggest men on the base, wrote the playbook, and ordered the shoulder pads, helmets, uniforms and pigskins. With this unique blend of leadership, charm and teamwork, Lou led his air force team into battle on the gridiron.

In 1959 after a stint in Hollywood as a 20th Century Fox studio player in two movies, In Love and War and The Best of Everything, Lou decided the time had come to focus on raising his family. He entered the uniform business. He would go on to build his own successful apparel manufacturing company for 40 years, Crown of California. Pioneering the idea of premium image wear for the automotive industry, Lou won his first order for 1,000 custom jackets from racing legend Carroll Shelby. By the mid-1970s Lou was designing and manufacturing a quarter million jackets per year for such companies as Honda, Toyota and Ford.

As beautiful on the inside as he was on the outside, Lou was a loving family man. He asked for and received custody of his four children and raised them as a single parent in the 1970s.

To ensure a high-quality public education for all of his kids including an adolescent daughter with "special needs" Lou persuaded Beverly Hills High School staff to develop a new framework for modifications decades before Individualized Education Plans became the norm in education.

Along with other parents facing similar challenges, Lou became a founding board member of the Achievable Foundation, a non-profit agency that provides critical support to people with disabilities and their families. Lou worked tirelessly to help the Achievable Foundation launch its new model of healthcare - the first of-its-kind federally qualified health center focusing on individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Through Achievable, Lou's example as a loving father and visionary leader will continue to improve the lives of vulnerable people with disabilities and their families. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to www.Achievable.org.

Share a memory

To sign a guest book please go to latimes.com/guestbooks

Los Angeles Times

To place an obituary ad please go online to: latimes.com/placeobituary

THE WEATHER

Today in Southern California

A damp start: An initial front will bring rain this morning, but drier air will punch in behind the front, keeping most of the afternoon dry with intervals of sun. An upper-level storm trailing the front will move south before taking an eastward turn, and will bring showers and a few thunderstorms tonight into Thursday. Snow levels will drop to the elevations of most major passes.

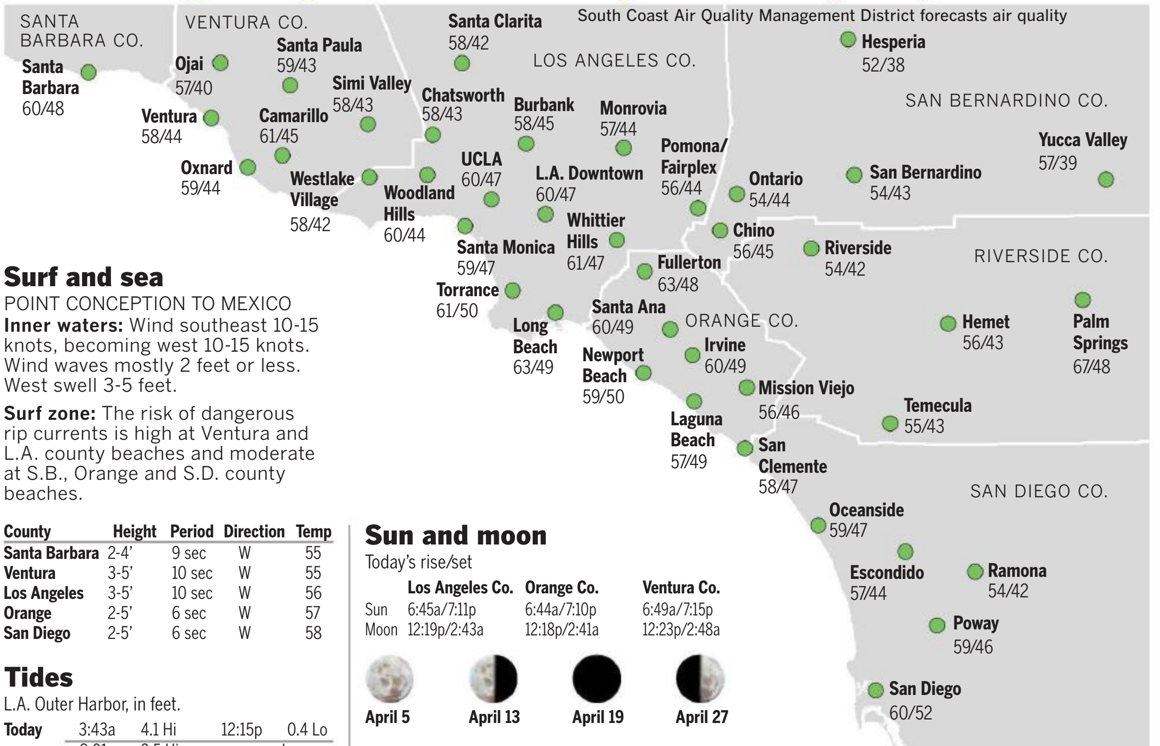
5-day forecasts

High/low temperatures are average forecasts for entire zone.

	L.A. Basin		Valleys		Beaches		Mountains		Deserts	
Today	60|47		58|43		59|47		38|23		67|48	
	Morning rain		Rain tapering off		Morning rain		Snow, 1-3"; colder		Showers around	
Thursday	Storms	57/47	Storms	55/43	Storms	58/48	Snow, 1-2"	34/20	A shower	64/49
Friday	Partly sunny	63/47	Partly sunny	61/45	Partly sunny	59/48	Mostly sunny	46/18	Warmer	71/54
Saturday	Partly sunny	67/48	Partly sunny	66/47	Clouds, sun	61/49	Clouds, sun	49/30	Mostly sunny	80/54
Sunday	Some sun	66/51	Rather cloudy	66/50	Mostly cloudy	61/52	Sunny	54/31	Sunny	82/57

Air quality

● Good ● Moderate Unhealthful for: ● Sensitive people ● All ○ Not Available



Surf and sea

POINT CONCEPTION TO MEXICO

Inner waters: Wind southeast 10-15 knots, becoming west 10-15 knots. Wind waves mostly 2 feet or less. West swell 3-5 feet.

Surf zone: The risk of dangerous rip currents is high at Ventura and L.A. county beaches and moderate at S.B., Orange and S.D. county beaches.

County	Height	Period	Direction	Temp
Santa Barbara	2-4'	9 sec	W	55
Ventura	3-5'	10 sec	W	55
Los Angeles	3-5'	10 sec	W	56
Orange	2-5'	6 sec	W	57
San Diego	2-5'	6 sec	W	58

Tides

L.A. Outer Harbor, in feet.

Today	3:43a	4.1 Hi	12:15p	0.4 Lo
	8:01p	3.5 Hi	------	Lo
Thu.	5:25a	4.1 Hi	12:02a	3.0 Lo
	8:13p	3.7 Hi	1:06p	0.2 Lo

UV index

Minutes to burn for sensitive people

Las Vegas, 60	Phoenix, 25
Los Angeles, 45	San Francisco, 60

Sun and moon

Today's rise/set

	Los Angeles Co.	Orange Co.	Ventura Co.
Sun	6:45a/7:11p	6:44a/7:10p	6:49a/7:15p
Moon	12:19p/2:43a	12:18p/2:41a	12:23p/2:48a

April 5
April 13
April 19
April 27

Almanac

Tuesday Downtown readings

Temperature	Los Angeles	Fullerton	Ventura
High/low	72/52	75/51	63/49
Normal high/low	71/53	72/52	67/47
High/low a year ago	60/53	65/55	58/51
Record high/date	90/1879	94/2004	92/2004
Record low/date	37/1892	46/2007	39/1975

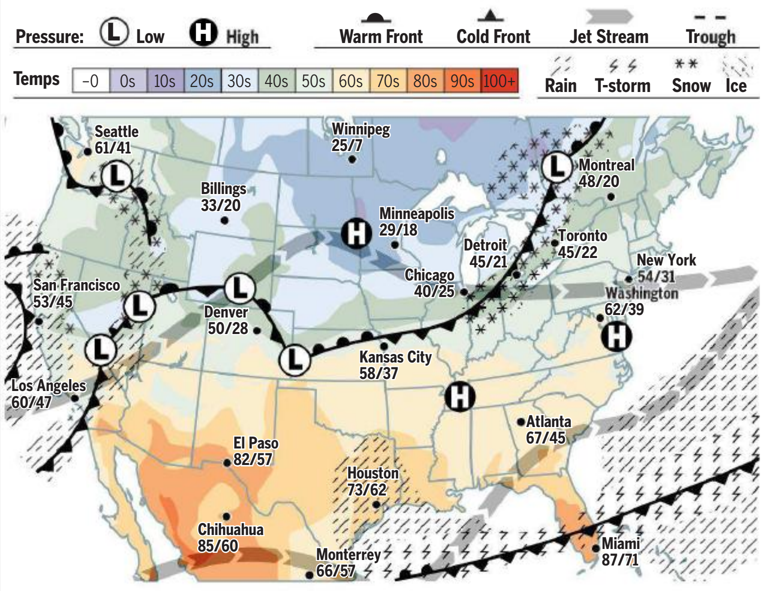
Precipitation	Los Angeles	Fullerton	Ventura
24-hour total (as of 5 p.m.)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Season total (since Oct. 1)	26.09	19.47	24.54
Last season (Oct. 1 to date)	11.83	6.30	10.78
Season norm (Oct. 1 to date)	12.85	10.58	14.46
Humidity (high/low)	40/17	48/18	86/40

California cities

	Tuesday			Today		Thursday	
City	Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Hi	Lo	Hi	Lo
Anaheim	75	53	--	60	48	63	46
Avalon/Catalina	60	52	--	52	43	50	43
Bakersfield	73	39	--	60	43	57	42
Barstow	72	39	--	60	42	61	38
Big Bear Lake	49	23	--	38	23	34	20
Bishop	62	23	--	55	30	52	26
Burbank	69	47	--	58	45	57	45
Camarillo	66	42	--	61	45	62	42
Chatsworth	72	42	--	58	43	57	44
Chino	71	40	--	56	45	59	43
Compton	71	47	--	62	49	61	47
Dana Point	64	45	--	58	49	59	48
Death Valley	82	46	--	76	56	68	58
Del Mar	65	51	--	57	50	58	46
Escondido	76	48	--	57	44	56	39
Eureka	53	42	.68	54	40	51	44
Fallbrook	70	51	--	56	44	58	41
Fresno	63	46	.05	58	45	60	40
Fullerton	75	51	--	63	48	62	47
Hemet	69	38	--	56	43	52	38
Hesperia	66	32	--	52	38	54	35
Huntington Beach	68	43	--	60	50	61	49
Idyllwild	56	29	--	44	31	41	34
Irvine	71	44	--	60	49	62	47
L.A. D'ntown/USC	72	52	--	60	47	57	47
L.A. Int'l. Airport	68	52	--	60	49	58	50
Laguna Beach	67	41	--	57	49	59	48
Lancaster	67	30	--	55	38	56	34
Long Beach	73	52	--	63	49	64	49
Mammoth Lakes	40	6	.08	34	17	34	15
Mission Viejo	71	47	--	56	46	57	46
Monrovia	71	43	--	57	44	59	44
Monterey	57	40	.31	53	43	56	43
Mt. Wilson	52	37	--	36	24	35	32
Needles	76	50	--	76	46	64	46
Newport Beach	64	50	--	59	50	61	51
Northridge	72	41	--	60	44	58	45
Oakland	53	48	.53	51	43	57	45
Oceanside	67	43	--	59	47	60	43
Ojai	70	36	--	57	40	58	36
Ontario	71	44	--	54	44	56	44
Palm Springs	78	47	--	67	48	64	49
Pasadena	69	47	--	58	44	57	44
Paso Robles	62	34	.03	55	42	60	36
Redding	51	40	1.06	48	30	59	43
Riverside	69	36	--	54	42	55	39
Sacramento	51	45	.85	53	41	63	42
San Bernardino	70	41	--	54	43	55	42
San Diego	69	50	--	60	52	61	50
San Francisco	55	50	.57	53	45	58	48
San Gabriel	xx	xx	--	60	46	61	45
San Jose	53	48	.48	53	43	59	41
San Luis Obispo	60	37	.04	57	44	59	39
Santa Ana	69	51	--	60	49	61	50
Santa Barbara	61	40	--	60	48	63	43
Santa Clarita	68	41	--	58	42	57	39
Santa Monica Pier	66	50	--	59	47	58	48
Santa Paula	70	49	--	59	43	60	40
Santa Rosa	53	44	1.50	54	35	59	40
Simi Valley	69	51	--	58	43	56	41
Tahoe Valley	39	29	1.10	32	19	38	22
Temecula	71	42	--	55	43	56	40
Thousand Oaks	67	51	--	58	43	58	42
Torrance	72	43	--	61	50	61	50
UCLA	xx	xx	--	60	47	59	47
Van Nuys	72	46	--	61	44	60	46
Ventura	63	49	--	58	44	59	42
Whittier Hills	76	50	--	61	47	61	46
Woodland Hills	70	xx	--	60	44	59	44
Wrightwood	50	31	--	38	29	39	27
Yorba Linda	73	50	--	57	45	58	43
Yosemite Valley	49	32	.22	41	26	42	24

Today in North America

West remains unsettled: A front across the interior West will be lined with rain and higher-elevation snow. A second storm will spread showers and a few thunderstorms across Northern and Central California. Snow squalls could accompany a front from Michigan to Ohio.



U.S. cities

TUESDAY'S EXTREMES FOR THE 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES

High 92 in Sebring, Fla.

Low –29 in Daniel, Wyo.

	Tuesday			Today		
City	Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Hi	Lo	Sky
Albany	53	35	.15	56	24	Pc
Albuquerque	58	28	--	70	45	Su
Anchorage	37	29	.01	37	36	Sn
Aspen	42	-6	--	51	32	Cy
Atlanta	75	54	--	67	45	Su
Austin	70	58	.05	72	58	Sh
Baltimore	58	43	--	61	35	Cy
Boise	51	39	--	45	32	Cy
Boston	46	37	.54	50	34	Pc
Buffalo	43	34	.09	46	24	Sn
Burlington, Vt.	45	34	--	50	23	Pc
Charleston, S.C.	74	60	Tr	67	45	Pc
Charlotte	73	50	.04	64	41	Su
Chicago	51	30	--	40	25	Pc
Cincinnati	50	36	Tr	56	29	Pc
Cleveland	46	33	.01	50	24	Sn
Columbia, S.C.	76	57	--	66	42	Su
Columbus	52	32	--	54	22	Pc
Dallas/Ft.Worth	64	49	--	69	55	Pc
Denver	55	13	--	50	28	Pc
Detroit	51	29	--	45	21	Sn
El Paso	66	44	--	82	57	Su
Eugene	54	40	.55	59	39	Pc
Fort Myers	89	72	--	87	65	Ts
Hartford	51	38	.17	56	28	Pc
Honolulu	81	71	.05	84	73	Sh
Houston	77	66	Tr	73	62	Cy
Indianapolis	51	27	--	52	26	Pc
Jacksonville, Fla.	85	62	.15	70	49	Cy
Kansas City	51	33	.03	58	37	Pc
Knoxville	63	49	Tr	62	38	Su
Las Vegas	72	45	Tr	65	44	Cy
Louisville	57	38	--	61	36	Pc
Medford	51	38	.47	54	34	Sh
Memphis	62	47	.03	65	44	Su
Miami	88	76	.18	87	71	Ts
Milwaukee	48	27	--	36	22	Pc
Minneapolis	36	15	Tr	29	18	Pc
Nashville	61	45	--	63	38	Su
New Orleans	79	71	.29	68	55	Cy
New York	52	42	Tr	54	31	Pc
Norfolk	57	47	Tr	57	45	Pc
Oklahoma City	55	35	--	66	49	Pc
Omaha	52	20	--	44	31	Cy
Orlando	91	67	--	81	59	Pc
Philadelphia	53	39	--	59	34	Pc
Phoenix	81	51	--	83	56	Pc
Pittsburgh	51	37	--	53	23	Sh
Portland, Ore.	52	45	.19	58	42	Pc
Providence	46	37	.39	52	31	Pc
Raleigh/Durham	70	49	.05	63	40	Pc
Reno	55	41	.07	44	29	Pc
Richmond	62	44	.05	64	40	Pc
St. Louis	49	40	.05	61	38	Su
Salt Lake City	57	31	--	57	37	Sh
Seattle	59	49	--	61	41	Pc
Tampa	84	69	--	84	63	Pc
Tucson	83	44	--	83	50	Su
Tulsa	56	34	--	66	48	Su
Washington, D.C.	61	46	--	62	39	Pc
Wichita	54	33	Tr	65	46	Su

World

City	Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Hi	Lo	Sky
Acapulco	90	66	--	87	70	Su
Amsterdam	46	32	.41	58	52	R
Athens	63	57	.27	59	44	Pc
Bangkok	97	81	--	96	80	Ts
Barcelona	61	54	.02	65	52	Pc
Berlin	45	32	.01	49	44	Cy
Cabo San Lucas	84	58	--	81	65	Hz
Cairo	86	61	--	73	54	Su
Dubai	84	75	--	80	67	Su
Dublin	59	45	.55	59	46	Sh
Havana	88	68	--	88	68	Sh
Ho Chi Minh City	97	78	--	95	79	Su
Hong Kong	72	63	.20	75	68	Cy
Istanbul	52	50	.80	47	37	Pc
Jerusalem	67	47	--	62	45	W
Johannesburg	71	53	.01	74	56	Pc
Kuala Lumpur	94	77	.13	94	76	Sh
Lima	80	71	--	82	72	Pc
London	48	40	.07	59	50	R
Madrid	75	37	--	79	50	Pc
Mecca	96	62	--	98	72	Su
Mexico City	83	57	.02	79	53	Ts
Montreal	39	32	.02	48	20	Pc
Moscow	48	32	--	45	37	R
Mumbai	86	74	--	87	76	Hz
New Delhi	86	64	--	89	69	Cy
Paris	52	36	.08	70	52	Cy
Prague	41	30	.13	45	40	Cy
Rome	61	41	--	62	46	Pc
Seoul	59	34	--	67	36	Pc
Singapore	90	77	--	90	78	Sh
Taipei City	66	59	--	80	62	Pc
Tokyo	55	49	.14	60	50	Sh
Vancouver	61	34	--	54	37	Pc
Vienna	45	36	.08	48	38	Cy

Key: Su sunny; **Pc** partly cloudy; **Cy** cloudy; **Fg** foggy; **Prcp** precipitation; **Dr** drizzle; **Hz** hazy **Sh** showers; **Ts** thunderstorms; **R** rain; **Sn** snow; **Sf** snow flurries; **I** ice; **Rs** rain/snow; **W** windy; **Tr** trace. **Notes:** National extremes exclude Alaska and Hawaii. Missing data indicated by "xx". Tuesday's readings as of 5 p.m.

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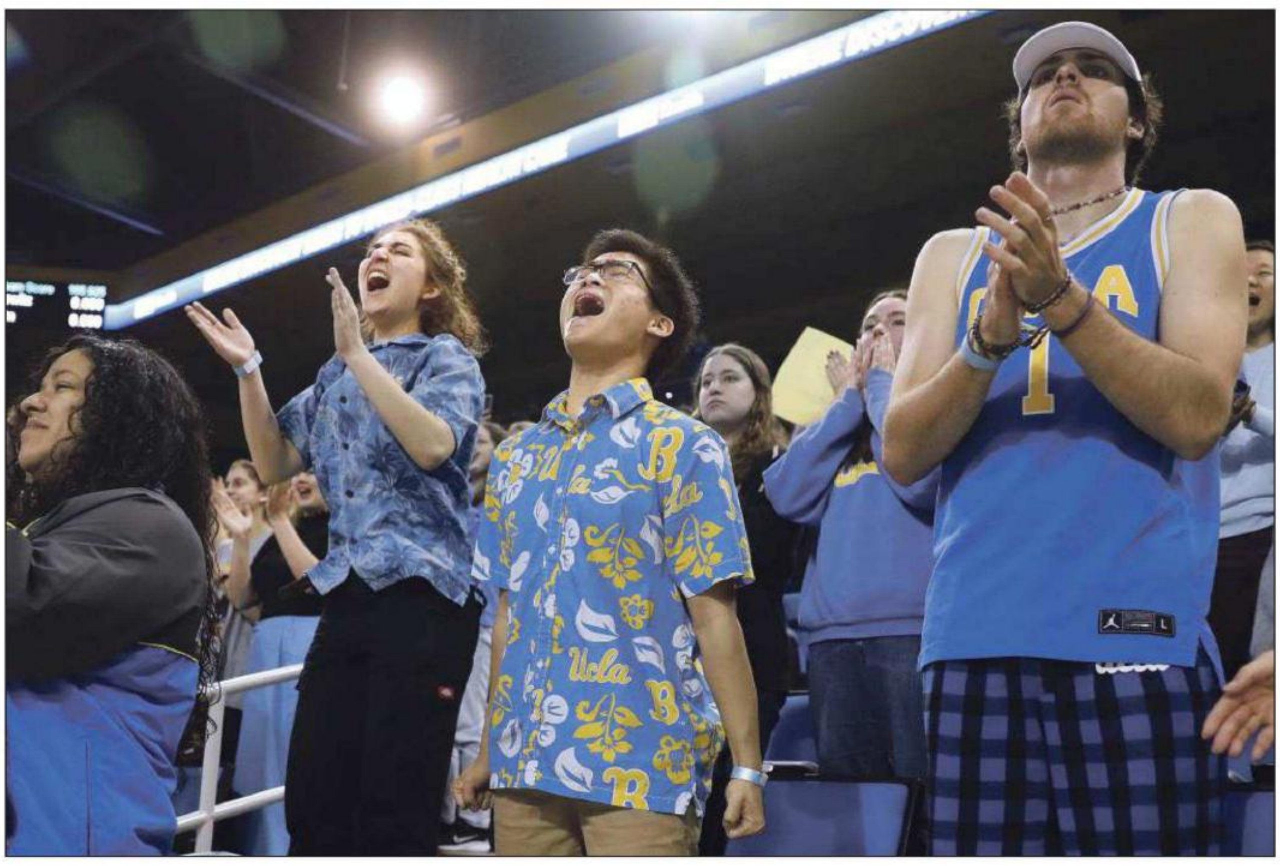
Bruins' biggest fan is a gymnast in his own right



GARY CORONADO Los Angeles Times

UCLA STUDENT Josh Lim, middle, and his friend Laura DeFalco are fired up during the Bruins' victory over Iowa State on March 11. "Josh be on point. ... He should get an award," UCLA gymnast Jordan Chiles said.

[**UCLA,** from B10]

Clapping emojis punctuated each word.

Standing alongside his friend Laura DeFalco, Lim has become a fixture at UCLA gymnastics meets this season. They dress in Hawaiian shirts, stand in the front row and match the floor choreography of every Bruins gymnast. Lim's sideline dancing is almost as eye-catching as the gymnasts he's mimicking.

"He knows every single one of our routines on the dot," senior Chloe Lashbrooke said. "He nails it almost better than me."

Said Olympic silver medalist and world champion Jordan Chiles: "Josh be on point. ... He should get an award for that. He should get an award for the hypest man out there."

It's dedicated students such as Lim who have helped UCLA gymnastics become "the best show in L.A.," senior Margzetta Frazier said.

The show gets a special season finale this week as the Bruins host the NCAA regionals, a three-round, nine-team meet with the top two finishers advancing to the NCAA championships. Brigham Young and Boise State start the regional meet Wednesday with the winner advancing to Thursday's regional semifinal at 7 p.m. against No. 4 UCLA, No. 14 Missouri and Stanford. No. 5 Utah and No. 12 Auburn headline the 4 p.m. semifinal Thursday against Southern Utah and Washington. The top two teams from each semifinal compete in the regional final at 5 p.m. Saturday.

If the Bruins emerge from the crowded field, they will end a two-year nationals drought, the longest in program history.

While UCLA is competing for a spot at the NCAA championships, Lim will also be working for his own title. The president of the UCLA club gymnastics team, Lim will be in Memphis, Tenn., at the National Assn. of Intercollegiate Gymnastics Clubs (NAIGC) national championships.

It was a torturous decision to not attend the NCAA regionals, Lim said. In addition to the chance to dance a final time with the Bruins this year, the meet will feature some of his college favorites such as Utah's Maile O'Keefe and Kara Eaker. But as a fan of a team known for spreading joy through gymnastics, it seems more fitting that Lim will spend the week following UCLA's example on his own competition floor.

"The motto of NAIGC is for 'the love of the sport,' " Lim said. "We're just a bunch of people who are all getting together and really doing the sport that we love."

Lim won the men's developmental floor exercise at nationals last year and choreographs routines for himself and his teammates. Because the NAIGC allows cross-gender competition, Lim can perform men's and women's floor routines.

Lim, who has also worked on the balance beam, vault, uneven bars and parallel bars this year, estimated he's typically one of two or three men who compete in women's floor during his meets. With the support of his teammates, Lim doesn't hold back.

"My goal is to always give the judges the biggest show possible," Lim said. "I want to be like, you have never seen an Asian guy perform like this before. ... I get a really big rush of energy and a lot of confidence on stage."

Lim's parents enrolled him in gymnastics classes to develop strength and flexibility when he was young. He stopped taking lessons when his skill level progressed and his parents began worrying about his safety in the sport, but he rekindled his interest in tumbling when he watched "America's Got Talent" in 2015. He started teaching himself old tricks in the park and watching elite gymnastics competitions online. Sophina DeJesus' viral floor routine in 2016 introduced him to UCLA.

Lim, who participated on his high school hip-hop dance team, loved the performance quality in UCLA's floor routines. Growing up five minutes away from Stanford, he tried to attend meets when the Bruins traveled to the Bay Area.

But a home meet for the Bruins hits differently, and the student section is why.

"The amount of fun and energy that the Den brings to every competition is unlike anything else," UCLA coach Janelle McDonald said. "I really do feel like we have some of the best student sections in NCAA gymnastics."

Students don't take the responsibility of being a Bruins gymnastics fan lightly. The Den prints out a two-page packet of notes for each meet, and leaders lay them neatly on every seat before the competition begins. The cheat sheets list gymnastics basics, including how scoring works and what to look for during competition such as straight legs and stuck landings. It includes dance-along instructions for each gymnast's floor routine such as "stretch your arms and yawn" at the beginning of freshman Selena Harris' routine or finish Emma Malabuyo's routine with your hand in the air and looking at the ceiling.

Lim doesn't need the notes.

During the preseason, Lim attends several intrasquad meets in which gymnasts and assistant coach/choreographer BJ Das teach students some of the choreography. Den leaders videotape the routines and study them for the Denography note packet.

For someone who was obsessed with elite gymnastics, the opportunity to share the gym with world champions, national team stars and internet icons is overwhelming.

"I am the luckiest person," Lim said. "I have to pinch myself every single time I go up and hug one of the gymnasts, like, 'Oh my God, this is so cool.' "

Lim's real practice begins during winter break. After the Meet the Bruins event in December, Lim pores over all the videos uploaded by UCLA and fans to teach himself the choreography. He takes every opportunity to practice and makes sure to arrive early to meets so he can rehearse alongside the gymnasts during warmups.

Chiles and junior Chae Campbell have the most difficult routines to learn this season, Lim said, because of the complex choreography. Frazier's is his favorite.

Frazier has long been one of Lim's favorite college gymnasts. Lim loves Frazier's routines so much that as a freshman in 2021, he learned her 2019 "Din Da Da" vogueing floor routine and submitted it to an NAIGC competition, which was held virtually because of the pandemic. He won first place in the "re-create a famous floor routine" category.

Frazier was paying attention.

"I had to come at him and say your leaps look better than mine. Delete the video," the three-time All-American said jokingly. "But when we see each other now, it feels like we're friends. I always like seeing him in the gym. He's Bruin family."

UCLA's influence on social media has grown to the point where even fans acting as backup dancers can go viral. Lim is amused each time friends spot him and DeFalco in the background of the latest video. It seems that more people are sending him clips this year, but he denies that he has become a minor Gymternet icon. Whenever he watches himself, he just thinks about how he could have done the choreography better.

For now, he'll keep working.

Singer's route to USC wasn't a fly pattern

After circuitous path, receiver is thriving at top level and taking his talents to Trojans.

By Ryan Kartje

Rick Scuteri Associated Press

DORIAN SINGER, who walked on at Arizona and became a standout, transferred to USC in December.

Dana Zupke couldn't make sense of it. As the longtime head coach at Pinnacle High in Arizona, he had seen many kids fall through the football recruiting cracks. That was just the reality of college football these days. But Dorian Singer was not just *any* kid.

Zupke coached the wide receiver for only one season, but it was more than enough to know Singer was special. His hands, Zupke said, "were incredible." The coach joked that he might have bet a year's salary on Singer pulling down a 50-50 ball. "Just jaw-dropping stuff," he said.

Still, here was Singer in May of his senior year, his first and only at Pinnacle, without any Football Bowl Subdivision scholarship offers to his name. That hadn't always been the case. Texas had offered. Iowa State too. The receiver had been holding out for others, namely one from Louisiana State, his dream school, but they never materialized. Then, for one reason or another, the first offers he got dried up.

"It was kind of the perfect storm, in a negative way, for Dorian," Zupke explained.

Before he would emerge as one of the most coveted receivers on the transfer market, trading Arizona for USC this offseason, Singer moved from Minnesota to Arizona in 2020 with the hope it might drum up an offer or two.

It was a bleak picture for any prospect in his position. The pandemic — and the extra year of eligibility the NCAA handed out with it — made scholarships scarce. Just getting attention from schools wasn't easy. He didn't have a national profile yet. On paper, his measurables didn't blow away anyone. Nothing about Singer was flashy either, down to his reserved, yes-sir, no-sir demeanor.

But Singer was certain that he belonged. So certain that he kept waiting, even as no space ever came open at LSU. Even as Texas coach Tom Herman was fired, replaced by Steve Sarkisian, who chose not to honor the offer to Singer.

Zupke, searching for some explanation, wondered whether he might be to blame. Had he not done enough to help Singer? The receiver remained surprisingly calm about his circumstances.

"I was stressed for him," Zupke said. "I was like, this kid is too good to not have a scholarship leaving my school."

Singer's options were limited as he considered his next steps in May 2021. Northern Arizona, a Football Championship Subdivision school, was pursuing him relentlessly. Arizona also expressed interest but had no available scholarships to offer. If he wanted to play Power Five football, he would have to start as a preferred walk-on, hoping Arizona would follow through the next season.

At the time, Singer acknowledges, he didn't really understand what it meant to be a walk-on.

Zupke tried to convince him to go the FCS route. At Northern Arizona, he had a guaranteed scholarship. Probably an immediate starting job too.

"But Dorian just wasn't having it," Zupke said. "He was confident enough in himself that he was like, 'I don't need to settle for an FCS school.' He wanted to prove himself on a higher stage."

Arizona coach Jedd Fisch kept his word. Soon after his freshman season, Singer was put on scholarship. It didn't take long after that to prove he had been worth it.

By late last October, as USC made the trip to Tucson, Singer had already established himself as one of the Pac-12 Conference's best pass catchers. Then, on his biggest stage yet, he starred. He torched the Trojans for 141 yards and three touchdowns in seven catches, all with his family and friends from Minnesota watching from the stands.

"Hard work goes a long way," Singer said. "I just believed in myself, and the results showed."

This time, he had no problem catching the attention of a college staff. Dennis Simmons, USC's receivers coach, had seen enough.

"His catch radius, his body control obviously was off the chart in the game against us," Simmons said.

When Singer entered his name in the transfer portal, Simmons and fellow USC assistant Luke Huard called him immediately after it opened. It didn't take much convincing for Singer — especially after he learned two other Arizona players, defensive tackle Kyon Barrs and cornerback Christian Roland-Wallace, were also considering transferring to USC.

The Trojans' offense, Singer explained, happened to be a perfect fit for his skill set. "They like to go deep, take the deep shots," he said. The notion of catching passes from a Heisman Trophy winner, quarterback Caleb Williams, didn't hurt either.

With Jordan Addison on his way to the NFL, Lincoln Riley needed an elite receiver capable of taking the top off opposing defenses. USC's coach didn't have to look far for Singer, whose 14 catches of 20 yards or more last season were the sixth most among college receivers.

Already this spring, he has earned a reputation for his reliability, Riley said.

"Tremendous ball skills, just some catches that kind of make you go, 'Wow,' " Riley said. "It kind of becomes a point where you're a little surprised if he doesn't come down with it, no matter how tough it looks. He just kind of finds a way."

It's a fitting sentiment for the Trojans' new star receiver, who, not long ago, was left without an FBS offer.

"This whole process for me has been different than for everybody else," Singer said. "If you believe, then things just happen."

STANDINGS

Standings have been arranged to reflect how the teams will be determined for the playoffs. Teams are ranked 1-15 by record. The top six teams in each conference qualify for the playoffs. Teams seven through 10 will participate in a play-in tournament with the top-seeded play-in team meeting the lowest qualifying play-in team. The next-lowest qualifying team would play the second, etc. Head-to-head competition is the first of several tiebreakers, followed by conference record. (Western Conference divisions: S-Southwest; P-Pacific; N-Northwest; Eastern Conference divisions: A-Atlantic; C-Central; S-Southeast).

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Team	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	Rk.
1. y-Denver	51	24	.680		5-5	N1
2. y-Memphis	48	27	.640	3	9-1	S1
3. Sacramento	45	30	.600	6	6-4	P1
4. Phoenix	40	35	.533	11	4-6	P2
5. CLIPPERS	40	36	.526	11½	7-3	P3
6. Golden State	40	37	.519	12	6-4	P4
6. Minnesota	39	37	.513	12½	5-5	N2
8. New Orleans	38	38	.500	13½	6-4	S2
9. LAKERS	37	38	.493	14	6-4	P5
10. Dallas	37	39	.487	14½	3-7	S3
10. Oklahoma City	37	39	.487	14½	6-4	N3
12. Utah	35	40	.467	15	4-6	N4
13. Portland	32	43	.427	19	1-9	N5
14. San Antonio	19	56	.253	32	3-7	S4
15. Houston	18	58	.237	33½	3-7	S5

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Team	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	Rk.
1. y-Milwaukee	54	21	.720		7-3	C1
2. x-Boston	52	24	.684	2½	7-3	A1
3. x-Philadelphia	49	26	.653	5	6-4	A2
4. x-Cleveland	48	29	.623	7	7-3	C2
5. New York	43	33	.566	11½	4-6	A3
6. Brooklyn	40	35	.533	14	3-7	A4
7. Miami	40	36	.526	14½	5-5	S1
8. Toronto	38	38	.500	17½	6-4	A5
8. Atlanta	38	38	.500	17½	5-5	S2
10. Chicago	36	39	.480	18	7-3	C3
11. Washington	34	42	.447	20½	3-7	S3
12. Indiana	33	43	.434	21½	4-6	C4
13. Orlando	32	44	.421	22½	5-5	S4
14. Charlotte	26	51	.338	29	5-5	S5
15. Detroit	16	59	.213	38	1-9	C5

x-*clinched playoff berth;* y-*division*

TUESDAY'S RESULTS

Washington 130, Boston 111	Atlanta 120, Cleveland 118
Toronto 106, Miami 92	Memphis 113, Orlando 108
Charlotte 137, Okla. City 134	Golden St. 120, New Orleans 109

TODAY'S GAMES

Favorite	Line	Underdog	Time
LAKERS	1½	at Chicago	5 p.m.
at Memphis	OFF	CLIPPERS	5 p.m.
at Indiana	OFF	Milwaukee	4 p.m.
at Brooklyn	12½	Houston	4:30 p.m.
at Philadelphia	5	Dallas	4:30 p.m.
at New York	OFF	Miami	4:30 p.m.
Utah	5	at San Antonio	5 p.m.
at Oklahoma City	OFF	Detroit	5 p.m.
Sacramento	12½	at Portland	7 p.m.
at Phoenix	6½	Minnesota	7 p.m.

Jae C. Hong Associated Press

DENNIS SCHRODER, going after a loose ball against Memphis' Dillon Brooks, has played the most minutes of any Laker this season and has helped keep the team in the hunt for the playoffs as it begins a four-game trip in Chicago on Wednesday.

Schroder has been Lakers' spark plug

[**Lakers,** from B10]

son with the Lakers, only Anthony Davis and LeBron James have higher individual net ratings, a metric that shows the difference between points scored and allowed per 100 possessions with a specific player on the court. Schroder is a plus-2.9 behind 3.8 for Davis and 3.7 for James. (D'Angelo Russell, who has played only 11 games since being acquired, has a whopping plus-10.4 rating. Austin Reaves is the only other Laker with a positive rating, at 2.5).

Schroder has swung between the bench and starting lineup ever since he returned from a thumb surgery that sidelined him the first 13 games of the season.

He's missed only one game since then, the Lakers going 34-28 since Schroder recovered from the torn ligament in his thumb, a winning percentage that would have them in fourth in the West had they played at that pace all season. The Lakers are ninth at 37-38 as they begin a four-game trip in Chicago on Wednesday.

It's largely been a satisfying return to Los Angeles for Schroder, who spent the post-bubble season playing in an empty Staples Center.

It was part of the reason why he returned on a veteran's minimum deal in free agency — unfinished business, he said, from a season that ended with a disappointing performance in a first-round playoff series against the Phoenix Suns.

He flashed the same hustle that season, his double-dive for a loose ball in a win against Denver still fresh in Davis' memory.

When he made the same kind of play last week, though, Schroder got to bask in the praise from the crowd that filled the building.

"It's a lot of energy, man. He plays with such a good passion. He's energetic," Davis said. "That's how he plays, he's scrappy and he saves a fast break, comes back down and draws a foul. He's kind of another spark. Got the crowd into it. But that's Dennis. That's how he plays.

" … He's leaving it all on the floor. Everyone is. I mean, the position that we're in, you got to be able to leave it all on the floor, give 110%. And he's giving like 150. He's leaving it all on the floor, laying everything out on the line for us to get a win. And it's contagious."

It's also exhausting, the wear and tear Schroder carried during his walk from the massage table to his locker.

Yet he smiles as he slowly gets ready to head home to his family, where he said he'll get his legs back underneath him.

Then, it's back to work.

"Whatever the team needs right now," Schroder said, "I just try to get it done."

Wizards 130, Celtics 111

BOSTON

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Brown	26	9-19	0-0	1-3	4	1	18
Tatum	31	11-19	4-4	0-9	5	4	28
Horford	25	2-10	0-0	0-4	3	2	5
Smart	30	5-8	0-0	0-0	5	2	14
White	23	2-5	2-2	0-3	1	0	7
Williams	25	2-6	4-5	2-6	2	1	8
Brogdon	23	6-11	0-0	0-3	2	2	13
Williams III	15	0-0	0-0	2-4	1	2	0
Hauser	9	2-4	0-0	0-1	2	0	5
Kornet	9	4-5	0-0	2-3	2	0	8
Muscala	9	0-1	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Pritchard	9	2-5	0-0	0-2	1	0	5
Totals		**45-93**	**10-11**	**7-38**	**29**	**14**	**111**

Shooting: Field goals, 48.4%; free throws, 90.9%

Three-point goals: 11-44 (Smart 4-7, Tatum 2-7, Hauser 1-3, Pritchard 1-3, White 1-3, Brogdon 1-4, Horford 1-7, Kornet 0-1, Muscala 0-1, Brown 0-4, Williams 0-4). Team Rebounds: 6. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 8 (Horford 2, White 2, Williams III 2, Tatum, Williams). Turnovers: 12 (Brown 4, Tatum 3, Pritchard, Smart, White, Williams, Williams III). Steals: 5 (Smart 2, Brown, Hauser, Williams III). Technical Fouls: None.

WASHINGTON

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Avdija	36	10-16	3-5	0-10	5	1	25
Kispert	33	5-11	2-2	1-2	2	2	15
Porzingis	33	14-21	1-1	2-13	6	1	32
Morris	28	9-15	0-0	0-3	9	0	19
Wright	30	3-5	1-3	0-5	2	2	8
Davis	23	3-9	0-0	2-8	1	2	7
Nunn	17	5-13	0-0	0-1	2	1	12
Gibson	11	1-2	2-2	1-1	1	4	4
Gill	11	2-3	0-0	0-0	2	0	4
Goodwin	11	1-3	0-0	0-0	3	0	2
Cooks	2	1-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	2
Totals		**54-99**	**9-13**	**6-43**	**33**	**13**	**130**

Shooting: Field goals, 54.5%; free throws, 69.2%

Three-point goals: 13-37 (Porzingis 3-5, Kispert 3-6, Avdija 2-5, Nunn 2-7, Wright 1-2, Davis 1-5, Morris 1-6, Goodwin 0-1). Team Rebounds: 11. Team Turnovers: 2. Blocked Shots: 3 (Morris 2, Porzingis). Turnovers: 9 (Avdija 4, Gibson 2, Cooks, Gill, Wright). Steals: 7 (Wright 2, Avdija, Gibson, Goodwin, Morris, Porzingis). Technical Fouls: None.

Boston	**23**	**28**	**27**	**33—111**
Washington	**29**	**35**	**35**	**31—130**

A—20,476. T—2:02.

Hawks 120, Cavaliers 118

CLEVELAND

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
LeVert	33	4-6	0-3	1-4	3	4	9
Stevens	40	2-6	0-2	3-9	0	3	4
E.Mobley	40	10-13	0-2	5-15	6	3	20
Garland	41	10-22	6-6	0-2	5	4	27
Mitchell	40	15-33	9-9	1-5	5	3	44
Rubio	19	4-7	0-0	0-2	1	4	9
Diakite	12	1-3	0-0	0-1	0	1	2
Osman	12	1-3	0-0	0-2	0	2	3
Totals		**47-93**	**15-22**	**10-40**	**20**	**24**	**118**

Shooting: Field goals, 50.5%; free throws, 68.2%

Three-point goals: 9-25 (Mitchell 5-12, LeVert 1-2, Osman 1-2, Rubio 1-2, Garland 1-6, Diakite 0-1). Team Rebounds: 8. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 6 (E.Mobley 4, Garland, Stevens). Turnovers: 8 (Garland 4, Mitchell 2, Osman, Rubio). Steals: 5 (Mitchell 2, E.Mobley, LeVert, Osman). Technical Fouls: Cavaliers, 6:42 second

ATLANTA

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Collins	29	4-9	1-2	2-7	2	1	12
Hunter	39	3-12	1-1	1-6	0	4	7
Capela	27	6-10	0-1	3-10	2	3	12
Murray	35	11-22	4-5	1-4	5	0	29
Young	36	4-15	6-9	1-1	10	0	16
Bogdanovic	22	4-8	1-1	1-2	2	1	12
Bey	21	4-8	2-2	3-10	3	0	11
Okongwu	20	5-5	11-12	2-9	0	4	21
Krejci	8	0-0	0-0	0-2	1	3	0
Totals		**41-89**	**26-33**	**14-51**	**25**	**16**	**120**

Shooting: Field goals, 46.1%; free throws, 78.8%

Three-point goals: 12-27 (Collins 3-4, Bogdanovic 3-6, Murray 3-7, Young 2-3, Bey 1-5, Hunter 0-2). Team Rebounds: 9. Team Turnovers: 3. Blocked Shots: 3 (Okongwu 3). Turnovers: 12 (Young 6, Capela 2, Okongwu 2, Bey, Collins). Steals: 5 (Murray 2, Bey, Bogdanovic, Young). Technical Fouls: None.

Cleveland	**24**	**27**	**33**	**34—118**
Atlanta	**24**	**35**	**35**	**26—120**

A—17,748. T—2:22.

Raptors 106, Heat 92

MIAMI

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Love	19	1-5	0-0	0-5	1	1	3
Oladipo	22	2-7	2-2	0-2	2	2	7
Adebayo	36	7-18	7-8	5-12	4	2	21
Herro	36	13-21	1-1	0-3	6	0	33
Vincent	18	1-5	0-0	1-2	1	1	2
Martin	30	3-8	1-1	3-5	0	1	7
Strus	26	1-3	0-0	0-2	1	1	3
Lowry	24	1-6	4-4	2-5	2	0	6
D.Robinson	12	1-4	1-1	0-0	1	0	4
Zeller	11	2-3	2-2	1-7	0	2	6
Highsmith	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Totals		**32-80**	**18-19**	**12-43**	**18**	**10**	**92**

Shooting: Field goals, 40.0%; free throws, 94.7%

Three-point goals: 10-33 (Herro 6-10, Oladipo 1-3, Strus 1-3, D.Robinson 1-4, Love 1-4, Vincent 0-2, Martin 0-3, Lowry 0-4). Team Rebounds: 6. Team Turnovers: 1. Blocked Shots: 3 (Love, Martin, Vincent). Turnovers: 15 (Herro 4, Martin 4, Oladipo 2, Strus 2, Zeller 2, Lowry). Steals: 6 (Lowry 2, Adebayo, Love, Martin, Vincent). Technical Fouls: None.

TORONTO

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Anunoby	38	9-14	0-0	2-3	5	2	22
Siakam	37	10-20	6-6	3-9	5	2	26
Poeltl	22	1-5	0-0	3-10	1	4	2
Barnes	41	10-16	2-2	3-7	12	2	22
VanVleet	34	5-13	0-0	0-3	6	0	12
Boucher	27	4-12	0-1	2-5	0	2	8
Achiuwa	24	5-10	0-0	2-9	2	1	12
Dowtin Jr.	13	1-3	0-0	0-1	1	0	2
Totals		**45-93**	**8-9**	**15-47**	**32**	**13**	**106**

Shooting: Field goals, 48.4%; free throws, 88.9%

Three-point goals: 8-36 (Anunoby 4-9, Achiuwa 2-5, VanVleet 2-9, Dowtin Jr. 0-2, Barnes 0-3, Boucher 0-3, Siakam 0-5). Team Rebounds: 2. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 7 (Boucher 2, Achiuwa, Dowtin Jr., Poeltl, Siakam, VanVleet). Turnovers: 9 (Siakam 3, Achiuwa 2, Anunoby 2, Boucher, VanVleet). Steals: 8 (Barnes 3, VanVleet 2, Achiuwa, Anunoby, Dowtin Jr.). Technical Fouls: Raptors, 9:19 third

Miami	**23**	**24**	**20**	**25— 92**
Toronto	**24**	**29**	**31**	**22—106**

A—19,800. T—2:05.

Memphis 113, Orlando 108

ORLANDO

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Banchero	28	9-18	3-6	1-11	5	2	24
F.Wagner	32	8-21	4-4	0-3	3	2	25
Carter Jr.	29	5-10	2-2	3-7	2	1	14
Fultz	28	5-9	1-1	0-1	5	2	11
G.Harris	25	1-5	0-0	0-3	2	1	3
Anthony	27	5-11	0-0	0-5	5	3	10
Suggs	23	1-10	0-0	0-3	1	1	2
Schofield	16	2-6	0-0	1-4	0	1	6
Bitadze	13	5-7	2-2	2-6	1	1	13
Houstan	8	0-3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
M.Wagner	5	0-0	0-0	1-4	0	1	0
Totals		**41-100**	**12-15**	**8-47**	**24**	**15**	**108**

Shooting: Field goals, 41.0%; free throws, 80.0%

Three-point goals: 14-49 (F.Wagner 5-12, Banchero 3-7, Schofield 2-5, Carter Jr. 2-6, Bitadze 1-2, G.Harris 1-4, Fultz 0-2, Anthony 0-3, Houstan 0-3, Suggs 0-5). Team Rebounds: 10. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 8 (Bitadze 3, Carter Jr. 2, Banchero, F.Wagner, M.Wagner). Turnovers: 16 (Anthony 4, Banchero 4, M.Wagner 3, Suggs 3, Carter Jr., G.Harris). Steals: 9 (Anthony 2, F.Wagner 2, Fultz 2, Bitadze, Carter Jr., Suggs). Technical Fouls: None.

MEMPHIS

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Brooks	31	5-14	1-2	0-3	3	2	13
Jackson Jr.	25	7-11	0-1	2-10	0	6	16
Tillman	35	10-12	0-0	2-9	1	1	20
Bane	36	8-19	12-14	0-4	5	3	31
Jones	33	3-12	1-2	0-6	8	0	7
Kennard	27	6-8	0-0	0-5	5	1	16
Aldama	23	3-5	2-2	1-5	1	2	9
Konchar	14	0-2	1-2	0-3	2	2	1
Roddy	10	0-5	0-0	2-4	1	0	0
Totals		**42-88**	**17-23**	**7-49**	**26**	**17**	**113**

Shooting: Field goals, 47.7%; free throws, 73.9%

Three-point goals: 12-34 (Kennard 4-5, Bane 3-8, Jackson Jr. 2-2, Brooks 2-8, Aldama 1-1, Konchar 0-1, Roddy 0-2, Jones 0-7). Team Rebounds: 8. Team Turnovers: 1. Blocked Shots: 6 (Jackson Jr. 3, Konchar 2, Aldama). Turnovers: 16 (Bane 6, Jackson Jr. 3, Aldama 2, Brooks 2, Jones 2, Kennard). Steals: 11 (Bane 3, Aldama 2, Jones 2, Brooks, Kennard, Konchar, Tillman). Technical Fouls: Jackson Jr., 2:12 second.

Orlando	**15**	**29**	**29**	**35—108**
Memphis	**32**	**27**	**28**	**26—113**

A—16,507. T—2:14.

Hornets 137, Thunder 134

CHARLOTTE

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
McGowens	23	4-9	0-2	0-2	2	3	11
Washington	37	16-24	6-7	2-6	5	5	43
Richards	26	6-9	2-4	4-11	0	4	14
Maledon	38	7-15	3-4	1-4	9	4	19
Mykhailiuk	36	6-13	4-6	2-5	8	2	18
Thor	36	6-11	1-2	2-6	4	2	14
Jones	21	5-5	2-3	3-14	1	0	12
Bouknight	19	2-8	1-2	1-4	5	4	6
Smith Jr.	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Totals		**52-94**	**19-30**	**15-52**	**34**	**24**	**137**

Shooting: Field goals, 55.3%; free throws, 63.3%

Three-point goals: 14-35 (Washington 5-9, McGowens 3-6, Maledon 2-5, Mykhailiuk 2-5, Bouknight 1-5, Thor 1-5). Team Rebounds: 6. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 7 (Maledon 4, Mykhailiuk 2, Thor). Turnovers: 18 (Maledon 5, Jones 3, Thor 3, Bouknight 2, McGowens 2, Washington 2, Richards). Steals: 6 (Mykhailiuk 3, McGowens 2, Washington). Technical Fouls: Hornets, 7:05 third.

OKLAHOMA CITY

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Dort	32	4-10	7-8	1-7	2	5	16
Jal.Williams	33	11-16	8-9	1-3	4	4	31
Jay.Williams	18	1-4	1-1	1-6	4	2	3
Giddey	34	14-22	2-4	0-10	9	0	31
Joe	31	11-18	5-7	1-2	1	0	33
Robinson-Earl	26	3-8	0-0	2-5	2	4	7
Mann	17	3-7	0-0	0-2	2	4	7
Dieng	12	0-1	0-0	0-2	0	1	0
Wiggins	12	1-3	0-0	1-2	0	0	2
Pokusevski	9	0-2	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Butler	7	2-4	0-0	0-0	0	1	4
Saric	3	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Totals		**50-96**	**23-29**	**7-39**	**25**	**21**	**134**

Shooting: Field goals, 52.1%; free throws, 79.3%

Three-point goals: 11-30 (Joe 6-11, Mann 1-1, Jal.Williams 1-2, Giddey 1-3, Robinson-Earl 1-3, Dort 1-4, Butler 0-1, Dieng 0-1, Pokusevski 0-1, Wiggins 0-1, Jay.Williams 0-2). Team Rebounds: 8. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 3 (Pokusevski 2, Giddey). Turnovers: 11 (Giddey 5, Dort, Jal.Williams, Joe, Pokusevski, Robinson-Earl, Wiggins). Steals: 11 (Jal.Williams 4, Mann 2, Robinson-Earl 2, Butler, Dort, Wiggins). Technical Fouls: None.

Charlotte	**26**	**31**	**36**	**44—137**
Oklahoma City	**23**	**45**	**31**	**35—134**

A—15,428. T—2:19.

Warriors 120, Pelicans 109

NEW ORLEANS

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Ingram	38	9-22	7-7	2-8	7	2	26
Murphy III	37	6-9	5-5	0-3	3	3	21
Valanciunas	22	5-8	1-2	1-9	5	2	11
Jones	35	5-11	0-0	4-6	4	3	13
McCollum	37	6-17	0-0	0-1	3	2	15
Nance Jr.	24	4-8	0-0	2-6	2	2	8
Richardson	20	3-6	0-0	0-2	2	1	7
Marshall	13	3-7	0-0	1-3	3	1	6
Daniels	10	1-2	0-0	1-3	1	2	2
Totals		**42-90**	**13-14**	**11-41**	**30**	**18**	**109**

Shooting: Field goals, 46.7%; free throws, 92.9%

Three-point goals: 12-27 (Murphy III 4-6, Jones 3-5, McCollum 3-7, Ingram 1-1, Richardson 1-3, Daniels 0-1, Marshall 0-1, Valanciunas 0-1, Nance Jr. 0-2). Team Rebounds: 6. Team Turnovers: 2. Blocked Shots: 4 (Murphy III 2, Ingram, Richardson). Turnovers: 17 (Ingram 6, Valanciunas 4, McCollum 3, Marshall 2, Murphy III, Nance Jr.). Steals: 6 (Daniels 2, Jones 2, Murphy III, Nance Jr.). Technical Fouls: Pelicans, 7:54 first

GOLDEN STATE

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
DiVincenzo	22	4-8	4-5	2-7	2	1	13
Kuminga	31	5-5	2-3	0-4	1	3	13
D.Green	32	4-5	0-0	0-6	13	5	8
Curry	36	14-25	3-4	2-8	8	0	39
Thompson	34	6-16	0-0	0-2	1	3	17
Poole	29	8-15	3-4	0-5	2	1	21
Looney	22	0-4	3-4	6-8	2	2	3
Lamb	17	1-2	1-2	0-0	2	2	4
Payton II	8	0-0	0-0	1-1	0	1	0
Moody	3	1-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	2
Baldwin Jr.	1	0-1	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Totals		**43-82**	**16-22**	**11-41**	**32**	**18**	**120**

Shooting: Field goals, 52.4%; free throws, 72.7%

Three-point goals: 18-40 (Curry 8-15, Thompson 5-11, Poole 2-6, Kuminga 1-1, Lamb 1-2, DiVincenzo 1-4, Baldwin Jr. 0-1). Team Rebounds: 6. Team Turnovers: 1. Blocked Shots: 4 (Kuminga, Looney, Poole, Thompson). Turnovers: 18 (Curry 4, D.Green 4, DiVincenzo 3, Lamb 2, Looney 2, Payton II, Poole, Thompson). Steals: 11 (Curry 3, D.Green 2, Thompson 2, DiVincenzo, Lamb, Payton II, Poole). Technical Fouls: Green, 3:44 second.

New Orleans	**36**	**27**	**26**	**20—109**
Golden State	**25**	**21**	**39**	**35—120**

A—18,064. T—NA.

NHL STANDINGS

Sixteen teams qualify for the Stanley Cup playoffs. The format is a set bracket that is largely division-based with wild cards. The top three teams in each division will make up the first 12 teams in the playoffs. The remaining four spots will be filled by the next two highest-placed finishers in each conference, based on regular-season record and regardless of division.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Pacific	W	L	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Vegas	46	22	6	98	246	212
KINGS	43	21	10	96	259	238
Edmonton	43	23	9	95	298	254
Seattle	40	25	8	88	254	236
Calgary	34	26	15	83	237	232
Vancouver	34	34	6	74	255	273
DUCKS	23	41	10	56	190	302
San Jose	20	39	15	55	212	286
Central	**W**	**L**	**OL**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
Minnesota	43	22	9	95	224	199
Colorado	44	23	6	94	245	201
Dallas	40	20	14	94	255	205
Winnipeg	41	31	3	85	222	212
Nashville	37	28	8	82	206	217
St. Louis	34	34	6	74	242	273
Arizona	27	35	13	67	211	262
Chicago	24	44	6	54	180	266

Note: Overtime or shootout losses worth one point.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Metropolitan	W	L	OL	Pts	GF	GA
x-Carolina	47	17	9	103	241	192
x-New Jersey	46	20	8	100	257	206
x-N.Y. Rangers	44	20	10	98	253	200
N.Y. Islanders	38	28	9	85	224	206
Pittsburgh	36	28	10	82	239	243
Washington	34	32	8	76	236	231
Philadelphia	29	32	12	70	198	238
Columbus	23	43	7	53	198	291
Atlantic	**W**	**L**	**OL**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
y-Boston	57	12	5	119	276	159
x-Toronto	44	20	9	97	251	203
Tampa Bay	43	26	6	92	257	230
Florida	36	31	7	79	257	256
Buffalo	35	31	7	77	261	271
Ottawa	36	33	5	77	236	240
Detroit	32	32	9	73	216	242
Montreal	30	39	6	66	217	276

x-clinched playoff berth; *y-division*

RESULTS

AT CALGARY 2 KINGS 1	Sean Durzi tallied the only goal for the Kings, who had scored 19 goals in their previous three games.
NASHVILLE 2 AT BOSTON 1	Juuse Saros finished with 35 saves, and the Predators ended the NHL-best Bruins' seven-game winning streak.
AT DETROIT 7 PITTSBURGH 4	David Perron had a third-period hat trick for the Red Wings, who overcame coach Derek Lalonde's ejection.
AT N.Y. RANGERS 6 COLUMBUS 2	Filip Chytil, Vladimir Tarasenko and Patrick Kane scored early for the Rangers. Igor Shesterkin stopped 28 shots.
TAMPA BAY 4 AT CAROLINA 0	Brayden Point scored two goals and added an assist, and the Lightning ended their losing streak at four games.
AT PHILADELPHIA 3 MONTREAL 2	Morgan Frost notched his second goal of the game late in the third period. The Flyers went 5-1-1 on a homestand.
AT ST. LOUIS 6 VANCOUVER 5 (OT)	Jakub Vrana scored two goals, including the game-winner 28 seconds into overtime, to power the Blues' victory.
DALLAS 4 AT CHICAGO 1	The Stars sent the Blackhawks to a sixth straight loss and moved into a second-place tie in the Central Division.
EDMONTON 7 AT VEGAS 4	Ryan Nugent-Hopkins tied a career high with five points, and the Oilers tightened the Pacific Division race.
AT SAN JOSE 3 WINNIPEG 0	James Reimer recorded 41 saves, and Noah Gregor had a goal and an assist. The Sharks' skid ended at nine.

TODAY'S GAMES

Florida at Toronto, 4:30 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Washington, 4:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Colorado, 7 p.m.

Flames end Kings' streak

L.A. offense is slowed and point streak is stopped at 12 games, a franchise best.

CALGARY 2, KINGS 1

ASSOCIATED PRESS

JEFF MCINTOSH Associated Press

BLAKE LIZOTTE, right, is checked by Flames forward Blake Coleman in the first period of the Kings' 2-1 loss, which ended their three-game winning streak.

CALGARY, Canada — Jacob Markstrom made 32 saves Tuesday night to fuel the Calgary Flames to a critical 2-1 victory over the streaking Kings.

Andrew Mangiapane and Walker Duehr scored for Calgary, which won its second consecutive game and improved to 7-3-2 in its last 12 games.

Sean Durzi had the lone goal for the Kings, who scored 19 in their previous three games. The Kings have been the NHL's hottest team, entering the night on a franchise-record 12-game point streak (10-0-2).

"I don't think it was a lack of effort, certainly today," Kings captain Anze Kopitar said. "It was a hard-fought game, a physical game. For the most part we did a good job. Just obviously unfortunately we didn't convert on a few of our chances."

The Kings are two points behind first-place Vegas and one up on Edmonton in the Pacific Division. The Oilers won 7-4 in Las Vegas.

The Flames moved within two points of the Winnipeg Jets, who occupy the final wild-card spot in the Western Conference. Winnipeg lost 3-0 at struggling San Jose.

Starting for the 15th time in the last 16 games, Markstrom turned in one of his best games of the season.

The veteran came up with numerous important saves to make the Flames' 2-1 lead from the first period hold up the rest of the way.

"He was sharp. Made some big stops. He probably stole us two points," Calgary center Elias Lindholm said.

Making his sixth start in goal since being acquired by the Kings in a trade with the Columbus Blue Jackets, Joonas Korpisalo made 30 stops but lost for the first time with the Kings.

"Both goaltenders were first and second star in whatever order you want to pick," Kings coach Todd McLellan said. "They both played well. Korpi made some really good saves for us. He gave us a chance to have those good looks at the other end. It's unfortunate we couldn't reward him with at least one to get him a point."

Momentum swung halfway through the first when Rasmus Andersson's goal, which would have made it 2-0, was waved off after an offside review. Less than two minutes later, the Kings tied it.

Durzi was left with open space to skate in from the blue line and he whipped a shot into the top corner.

Calgary restored its lead at 17:59 when Duehr scored the goal that would stand up as the game-winner, slipping a shot past Korpisalo from the side of the net. It was the sixth goal in 21 games for the rookie, who was playing on the fourth line.

FLAMES 2, KINGS 1

KINGS	1	0	0	– 1
Calgary	2	0	0	– 2

FIRST PERIOD: 1. Cal., Mangiapane 15 (Lindholm, Backlund), 1:54 (pp). 2. KINGS, Durzi 8 (Kaliyev, Grundstrom), 9:24. 3. Cal., Duehr 6 (Lewis), 17:59. **Penalties**—Danault, KINGS (Tripping), 0:52. Lewis, CGY (Holding Stick), 5:54.

SECOND PERIOD: Scoring—None. **Pen.**—Gavrikov, KINGS (Interference), 13:28. Roy, KINGS (Slashing), 17:39.

THIRD PERIOD: Scoring—None. **Penalty**—Lewis, CGY (Holding), 5:26.

SHOTS ON GOAL: KINGS 13-9-12—34. Cal. 15-13-4—32. Power-play conversions—KINGS 0 of 2. Cal. 1 of 3.

GOALIES: KINGS, Korpisalo 15-12-4 (32 shots-30 saves). Cal., Markstrom 21-20-10 (34-33). Att—17,106 (19,289). T—2:30.

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BRIAN ROTHMULLER Icon Sportswire/Getty Images

DODGERS MANAGER Dave Roberts looks on as the pitch clock expires during an exhibition against the Angels on Monday night. "Love it," Roberts said of the new rule, which has made games go faster this spring.

Dodgers and Angels are bracing for implications of pitch clock

[**Pitch clock,** from B10]

forced.

There have been adjustments since the start of spring training, allowing extra time for players to address malfunctioning PitchCom units, for hitters to get back into the box after brushback pitches or big swings that knock equipment out of place, and for pitchers to return to the mound after covering first or backing up a base.

But once the clock starts, and a pitcher has used his two "disengagements" per at-bat, and a batter has used his one timeout per plate appearance, there is no stopping it, no matter the inning, the score or how pressure-packed the situation.

"I just think you have to refocus a little quicker," Dodgers utility man Chris Taylor said. "In the past, you'd kind of step out, take a few breaths to slow things down and get back in there. You can't really do that anymore. So you maybe take one breath, get back in the box and be ready."

Though there are plenty of notoriously slow-working pitchers — Angels ace Shohei Ohtani and former Dodgers relievers Kenley Jansen and Pedro Báez come to mind — Roberts believes the pitch clock will require more adjustments from hitters, not pitchers.

"Most pitchers like working quick," Roberts said. "There are outliers, guys who work really slow, but in my opinion, it's hitters who slowed the pace of play. In those bigger moments, they want to slow things down, control the tempo, their heartbeat, and that's why the game comes to a standstill. But you're not going to have that luxury anymore."

The pitch clock is clearly working, shaving about 25 minutes off game times this spring.

The Dodgers' 3-0 win over the Angels at Chavez Ravine on Sunday night took a mere 2 hours 8 minutes, after which Kershaw said, "Hopefully they sell enough beer."

A 5-4 Angels victory over the Dodgers in Anaheim on Monday night featured 20 hits, including six home runs, and 18 strikeouts and still took only 2 hours 36 minutes.

"I think it's going pretty smooth," Angels manager Phil Nevin said. "We started off in the spring with a lot of violations, people not understanding it, but I think it's kind of becoming the norm already. I think it's good ... to keep the pace moving."

Pace-of-play rules are not limited to the pitch clock. Replay rules have also changed. Managers now must hold up their hands immediately to signal to the umpires that they are considering a challenge, and they will have only 15 seconds from that point to inform the crew chief that they want a play reviewed.

Managers previously had 10 seconds to signal to umps they were considering a challenge and 20 seconds from that point to decide whether to challenge the play.

"The mechanics of it ... we've got to make a decision sooner," Roberts said. "We don't have that 10-second grace period to decide if we're going to challenge or not."

The tighter window will pressure replay specialists to find the best camera angle to make a determination quicker than in past years.

Home plate umpires, who communicate with field timing coordinators in the press box through an earpiece and microphone, will add 15 seconds to each of the four pitch clocks — one by each dugout, two beyond the center-field wall — to time replay reviews.

This came as a relief to Roberts, who initially thought another clock might be added.

"You know what?" Roberts said. "We've got plenty of clocks around now."

DODGERS-ANGELS REPORT

O'Hoppe to start on opening day

By Sarah Valenzuela

Logan O'Hoppe had a feeling good news was coming when Angels manager **Phil Nevin** asked him to call his dad.

"[Nevin] came into the locker room and was like 'Come with me and bring your phone,' " O'Hoppe recalled Tuesday. "And then he asked how my dad was doing. ... I said he was good and he had me call him up and that's when I had a good idea."

O'Hoppe was added to the opening day roster Monday and told he would be the catcher when the Angels open the season Thursday at Oakland.

"His mom and dad lost it real quick," Nevin recalled.

"Us O'Hoppes are criers," O'Hoppe said. "There were definitely some tears."

When O'Hoppe takes the field on opening day, he'll be the youngest Angels catcher to do so ... by 188 days, according to the team.

The previous youngest Angels catcher to start on opening day was **Buck Rodgers,** who was 23 years and 237 days old when he did it in 1962. O'Hoppe will be 23 years and 49 days old.

O'Hoppe, who appeared in five games as a rookie last season and hit .281 this spring, will catch **Shohei Ohtani,** who's starting the opener for the second straight year.

"He worked his tail off all winter to be in this position. And he's earned it," Nevin added.

Taylor 'really close' with swing

Most of this spring was a slog for **Chris Taylor.**

The Dodgers utility man batted .125 in Cactus League games. He struck out in close to half his trips to the plate. And he discussed the frustrations that came with continued tinkering with his swing, inconsistency and injuries over the last season and a half.

In this week's Freeway Series against the Angels, however, Taylor flashed promising signs.

On Sunday and Monday, he homered. On Tuesday, he added a double and two walks. Most importantly, he struck out only twice in 11 plate appearances.

"It's been a progression," Taylor said of his swing this spring. "I kind of knew what I wanted to do, to get the right bat path and cover some of those pitches up in the zone I was missing.

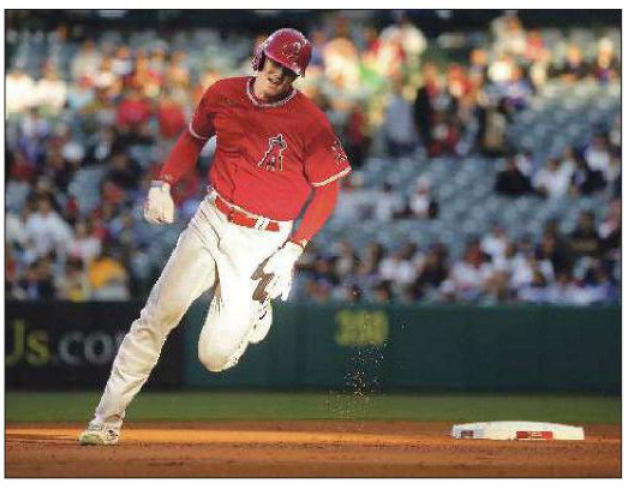
"It took me longer than I wanted to, but I feel like it's really close now."

Taylor won't begin the season as an everyday player. Manager **Dave Roberts** reiterated that the 32-year-old will start in an outfield platoon role and fill in as the backup shortstop.

The last tuneup

The Angels beat the Dodgers 13-5 on Tuesday at Angel Stadium. Angels starter **Reid Detmers** pitched 2⅔ innings, giving up three earned runs on six hits and three walks and struck out four. Dodgers starter **Ryan Pepiot** pitched 3⅓ innings, giving up five earned runs — including homers by **Hunter Renfroe** and **Luis Rengifo** — on six hits and four walks and struck out five.

Staff writer Jack Harris contributed to this report.



LUIS SINCO Los Angeles Times

SHOHEI OHTANI rounds second base en route to scoring against the Dodgers in the first inning.

McVay: Stafford is healthy

By Gary Klein

PHOENIX — Sean McVay pondered many uncertainties, about himself and his team, before deciding to return for his seventh season as coach of the Rams.

But quarterback Matthew Stafford's physical condition was apparently not among them.

McVay said Tuesday that there would be "no limitations" on Stafford when the Rams begin offseason workouts April 17.

Stafford, a 15th-year pro, played through right elbow tendinitis and came back from a concussion before suffering a spinal bruise that sidelined him for the final seven games of the Rams' 5-12 season.

"It's been a long time since he's been healthy through an offseason, where he's been able to throw," McVay said at the NFL owners meetings. "I was just with him the other morning where he was in there early working, being able to do the things that are in alignment with preparing for the season."

Stafford, standout receiver Cooper Kupp and star defensive lineman Aaron Donald will be the pillars for a team that is not on track to be bolstered by high-profile offseason additions.

Kupp is coming off season-ending ankle surgery. Donald was sidelined the final six games last season because of an ankle injury.

The typically headline-grabbing Rams are in a major economic pullback with an eye toward next year and building through the draft.

So, they are counting on Stafford to carry them into playoff contention.

In 2021, the Rams sent quarterback Jared Goff, two first-round draft picks and a third-round pick to the Detroit Lions in exchange for Stafford, the top pick in the 2009 draft. Stafford made the deal pay off by passing for 41 touchdowns during the regular season and leading the Rams to victory in Super Bowl LVI at SoFi Stadium.

Gary Klein Los Angeles Times

SEAN McVAY said there would be "no limitations" on Matthew Stafford when the Rams begin workouts.

But last spring, Stafford did not throw passes during offseason workouts, and he was limited during training camp, so as not to exacerbate the tendinitis in his right elbow. Stafford's limited participation affected his ability to create a rapport with new receiver Allen Robinson among others.

Stafford passed for only 10 touchdowns last year before his season ended after a sack against the New Orleans Saints.

"Last year, there was such a unique combination ... of things that prevented him from being able to play the way that he's capable of," McVay said. "I think there's a lot of guys on our team that will have a renewed sense of urgency and appreciation for just getting out and competing."

Robinson might be one of those players, though he remains in a kind of limbo. The Rams are seeking to trade Robinson, who has a guaranteed salary of $10 million and an $18-million salary-cap number, according to overthecap.com.

Last season, Robinson caught only 33 passes for 339 yards and three touchdowns before suffering a season-ending foot injury.

"Allen is a great person, he's been a great player for a long time," McVay said when asked how he would handle the situation if Robinson is on the roster when offseason workouts begin. "And so you talk to him and say, 'This is a possibility that we're exploring where we might move you. But if we don't, I want you to know I'm going to pour everything I have into you as a player to try to help you reach your highest potential, make sure that it's an enjoyable experience where you love coming into work.'

"And so that's exactly where we've left it. And so I don't think it's uncomfortable because those are the realities of the situation. And if he is here, be excited about it. And if he's not, wish him the best in his next stop."

The Rams remain interested in signing free-agent receiver Odell Beckham Jr., who played for them in the second half of the 2021 season. Beckham suffered a knee injury during the Super Bowl victory and did not play last season.

"Love Odell," McVay said. "There are certain parameters that limit what we can do. But if that's a situation that is presented to us, I know that we would be a better football team if we were able to do that."

The Rams have 11 picks in the draft, though none in the first round.

McVay harked to 2017, his first season, when the Rams selected players such as Kupp, tight end Gerald Everett, receiver Josh Reynolds, safety John Johnson and linebacker Samson Ebukam.

"There was a lot of guys from that draft that became foundational parts of what we did moving forward," he said. "And then you hit on the guys that you add and acquire.

"And so that's going to be the key thing for us, is we got to hit those spots the right way. We've got to be able to have a vision for the players that we are going to onboard and then let's see how quickly they can develop."

With Stafford the only quarterback on the roster, "in some form or fashion we have to be able to address" who will be the backup, McVay said.

The Rams could draft a quarterback for the first time since selecting Goff in 2016, sign a veteran or do both.

"You definitely know that that's going to be part of what we have to do moving forward," he said.

"Whether that's somebody that has experience or not, we'll see."

Embattled Snyder faces decision

[**NFL meetings,** from B10] report released in December, Snyder "permitted and participated" in the club's pervasive and toxic work culture, worked to dissuade and intimidate witnesses from cooperating in a 14-month inquiry and claimed more than 100 times in testimony that he could not recall answers to basic questions.

In July 2021, the NFL fined the then-Washington Football Team $10 million and required that Snyder relinquish day-to-day operations of the franchise for several months after an independent investigation found the club's workplace "highly unprofessional," particularly for women. At that point, the team had been under investigation for a year stemming from dozens of sexual harassment allegations by previous employees over a 15-year period.

Although a sale of the Commanders could require weeks or even months, there's a possibility a vote could take place at the league's May meetings in Minnesota.

Harris owns the NBA's Philadelphia 76ers and NHL's New Jersey Devils, and teamed with Rales, a Maryland billionaire originally from Pittsburgh. Johnson owns a minority share of the Dodgers and long has expressed interest in being part of an NFL ownership group.

Don't look back

The Rams proposed a rule to make roughing-the-passer penalties reviewable but couldn't sway enough of the teams to affect a change.

The proposal failed to receive the requisite 24 votes Tuesday, possibly because of an experiment that flopped in 2019. That's when the NFL tried booth reviews of pass-interference calls, and those proved too subjective to merit a permanent rules change.

"There are a lot of issues that go into it," said Rich McKay, chairman of the competition committee, on making roughing calls subject to replay reviews. "It's a dramatic and almost drastic change of officiating, taking it from the field up to the booth."

McKay declined to reveal the vote tally but said: "It wasn't a long discussion and then we voted and it did not pass."

Zoned out

Now that YouTube TV is taking over the Sunday Ticket package, there will be only one RedZone Channel: the NFL-produced version hosted by Scott Hanson, not the DirecTV version hosted by Andrew Siciliano.

Numbers game

Single-digit jersey numbers are in vogue, so there was little resistance to adding "0" as an option. All players are eligible to wear that number this season, except those in the trenches.

Offensive linemen are still relegated to numbers between 50 and 79, whereas defensive linemen can wear numbers in that range or from 90 to 99.

Kicking it away

The league tabled a proposal by the Philadelphia Eagles to provide an option to an onside kick. The Eagles suggested a team that's trailing could maintain possession by substituting one offensive play — a fourth and 20 from its 20 — in lieu of an onside kick.

The rate of successful onside kicks dwindled to 4% last season, well below the league's desired rate of 13% to 14%.

Heady move

With further reducing concussions in mind, the league plans to expand the use of so-called guardian caps, the padded shells that fit over helmets, to full-contact practices during the regular season and not just the preseason.

At training camps last summer, the caps were worn by offensive and defensive linemen, as well as linebackers and tight ends. Now, tailbacks and fullbacks will wear them too.

This too shall pass

Rules changes that passed include proposals from the Chargers to make the adjustment of the play clock after instant replay consistent with other timing rules; Houston's proposal to allow for review of failed fourth-down attempts, and the competition committee's proposal to make the penalty for tripping a personal foul.

PRO CALENDAR

	WED 29	THU 30	FRI 31	SAT 1	SUN 2
DODGERS		**ARIZONA** 7 SNLA	**ARIZONA** 7 SNLA	**ARIZONA** 6 SNLA	**ARIZONA** 1 SNLA
ANGELS		**at Oakland** 7 BSW		**at Oakland** 1 BSW	**at Oakland** 1 BSW
LAKERS	**at Chicago** 5 SpecSN		**at Minnesota** 5 SpecSN		**at Houston** 4 SpecSN
CLIPPERS	**at Memphis** 5 BSSC		**at Memphis** 5 BSSC	**at New Orleans** 5:30 Ch. 5	
KINGS		**at Edmonton** 6 BSSC		**at Seattle** 7 Ch. 13	**at Vancouver** 5 BSW
DUCKS		**at Seattle** 7 Hulu		**at Edmonton** 7 BSSC	**at Calgary** 5 BSSC
GALAXY				**SEATTLE** 4:45 Ch. 11, Apple TV	
LAFC				**at Colorado** 6:30 Apple TV	
ANGEL CITY					**at Orlando** 2:30 Paramount+

Shade denotes home game.

TODAY ON THE AIR

TIME	EVENT	ON THE AIR
BASKETBALL		
11 a.m.	G League playoffs, Cleveland at Maine	**TV:** ESPN2
1 p.m.	G League playoffs, Rio Grande Valley at South Bay Lakers	**TV:** ESPN2
4:30 p.m.	Dallas at Philadelphia	**TV:** ESPN, ESPND
5 p.m.	Clippers at Memphis	**TV:** BSSC **R:** 570, 1220
5 p.m.	Lakers at Chicago	**TV:** SpecSN **R:** 710, 1330
7 p.m.	Minnesota at Phoenix	**TV:** ESPN, ESPND
COLLEGE LACROSSE		
5 p.m.	Women, Princeton at Maryland	**TV:** Big Ten
COLLEGE SOFTBALL		
Noon	Indiana at Purdue, Game 1 (doubleheader)	**TV:** Big Ten
2:30 p.m.	Indiana at Purdue, Game 2 (doubleheader)	**TV:** Big Ten
3:30 p.m.	Louisville at Kentucky	**TV:** ESPNU
5 p.m.	East Carolina at North Carolina	**TV:** ACC
GOLF		
10:30 a.m.	Augusta National Women's Amateur, first round	**TV:** Golf
HOCKEY		
4:30 p.m.	New York Islanders at Washington	**TV:** TNT
7 p.m.	Minnesota at Colorado	**TV:** TNT
PREP BASKETBALL		
4:30 p.m.	Throne National Championship, Camden (N.J.) vs. Wildcats (Ga.)	**TV:** FS1
6 p.m.	Throne National Championship, Hoop Nation (Calif.) vs. Queens Royal (N.Y)	**TV:** FS1
SOCCER		
8 p.m.	Mexico, Cruz Azul at Querétaro	**R:** 1330
TENNIS		
10 a.m.	Miami Open, quarterfinals	**TV:** Tennis
4 p.m.	Miami Open, quarterfinals	**TV:** Tennis

NCAA TOURNAMENT

(all times Pacific)

MEN'S FINAL FOUR
at Houston
Saturday's semifinals

No. 5 San Diego State (31-6) vs.
No. 9 Florida Atlantic (35-3), 3 p.m., Channel 2

No. 4 Connecticut (29-8) vs.
No. 5 Miami (29-7), 5:45 p.m., Channel 2

WOMEN'S FINAL FOUR
at Dallas
Friday's semifinals

No. 1 Virginia Tech (31-4) vs.
No. 3 Louisiana State (32-2), 4 p.m., ESPN

No. 1 South Carolina (36-0) vs.
No. 2 Iowa (30-6), 6 p.m., ESPN

E-NEWSPAPER BONUS

Subscribers get access to the daily digital replica of The Times print edition that includes one bonus sports page. To view the e-newspaper on your phone, tablet or computer, visit *latimes.com/enewspaper*.

THE DAY IN SPORTS

Mitchell scores 44 in loss, ties James' Cavaliers record

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

Dejounte Murray sank three free throws with 2:14 remaining to give host Atlanta the lead and added a fallaway jumper with less than a minute left to lead the Hawks to a 120-118 win over the short-handed Cleveland Cavaliers on Tuesday night.

The Cavaliers held out starting forward **Isaac Okoro** (left knee soreness) and center **Jarrett Allen** (strained right groin) and were led by **Donovan Mitchell's** 44 points. Mitchell tied **LeBron James'** Cavaliers record of 10 games of 40-or-more points in a season.

Murray led Atlanta with 29 points, and **Onyeka Okongwu** added a season-high 21. The Hawks remained tied with Toronto, which beat Miami 106-92, for the eighth-best record in the Eastern Conference.

With Atlanta's win, NBA- and Eastern Conference-leading Milwaukee clinched the Central Division title.

P.J. Washington scored a career-high 43 points, and the Charlotte Hornets rallied to beat the host Oklahoma City Thunder 137-134. ... **Ben Simmons** won't play again this season because of a nerve injury in his back, ending his disappointing first full season with the Brooklyn Nets after just 42 games. Simmons saw multiple specialists this week who determined that he should not play and should begin a rehabilitation program. Coach **Jacque Vaughn** said a full recovery was expected. ... Golden State Warriors coach **Steve Kerr** remains hopeful that **Andrew Wiggins**, who hasn't played since Feb. 13, will return this season after the veteran forward missed his 20th consecutive game because of a family matter.

MLB

Giménez close to re-signing

The Cleveland Guardians were close to signing All-Star second baseman **Andrés Giménez** to a long-term contract, a person familiar with the negotiations told the Associated Press.

Giménez batted .297 and won a Gold Glove for the American League Central champions last season.

The Guardians also were nearing a deal with reliever **Trevor Stephan**, the person said.

ESPN reported that Giménez agreed to a seven-year, $106.5-million package that includes a club option for an eighth year.

The Milwaukee Brewers sent infielder **Keston Hiura** to triple A after he cleared waivers and signed first baseman **Luke Voit** to a one-year contract worth $2 million.

ETC.

UCLA's Clark recognized again

UCLA's **Jaylen Clark** was selected the National Assn. of Basketball Coaches' defensive player of the year after leading the Pac-12 and ranking fourth nationally with 2.6 steals per game.

Clark was previously honored as the Pac-12's defensive player of the year at the end of a season in which he also averaged 12 points and six rebounds before suffering a lower-leg injury that sidelined him for the Bruins' final six games.

His 78 steals tied **Darren Collison** for No. 3 on the school's single-season list, trailing **Cameron Dollar** (82) and **Jordan Adams** (95).

— Ben Bolch

Auburn's top men's basketball signee from last year, center **Yohan Traore**, plans to transfer.

Chatsworth Sierra Canyon guard **Bronny James** scored 15 points, but Team West lost 109-106 to Team East in the McDonald's All-American Game in Houston. In the girls' game, Sierra Canyon's **Juju Watkins** had 25 points and was named co-most valuable player in the West's 110-102 win.

The brother of the late New England Patriots player **Aaron Hernandez** was facing criminal and motor vehicle charges in Connecticut, accused of throwing a brick onto the ESPN headquarters campus and eluding police during brief pursuits in other towns.

Reigning Wimbledon champion **Elena Rybakina** extended her winning streak to 12 matches and delivered at least 10 aces for the fourth consecutive outing while beating 25th-seeded **Martina Trevisan** 6-3, 6-0 to reach the Miami Open semifinals. On the men's side, **Taylor Fritz** and **Jannik Sinner** beat seeded opponents in straight sets to move into the quarterfinals.

Chicago Blackhawks captain **Jonathan Toews** practiced for the first time since January but hinted his NHL career could be winding down after 15 years. Toews has been out because of the effects of Chronic Immune Response Syndrome and "long COVID."

Julie Ertz was named to the U.S. roster for two games against Ireland after taking time off for the birth of her son. ... **Scott McTominay** scored twice as host Scotland upset Spain 2-0 in qualifying for the European Championship, its first win in 39 years over one of soccer's biggest heavyweights.

TENNIS RESULTS

$8.8-MILLION MIAMI OPEN
At Miami Gardens, Fla.
Surface: Hard-outdoor

MEN'S SINGLES (fourth round)—Jannik Sinner (10), Italy, d. Andrey Rublev (6), Russia, 6-2, 6-4; Taylor Fritz (9), d. Holger Rune (7), Denmark, 6-3, 6-4; Emil Ruusuvuori, Finland, d. Botic Van de Zandschulp (26), Netherlands, 4-6, 6-4, 7-5; Carlos Alcaraz (1), Spain, d. Tommy Paul (16), 6-4, 6-4; Karen Khachanov (14), Russia, d. Stefanos Tsitsipas (2), Greece, 7-6 (4), 6-4; Christopher Eubanks d. Adrian Mannarino, France, 7-6 (2), 7-6 (5).

WOMEN'S SINGLES (quarterfinals)—Elena Rybakina (10), Kazakhstan, d. M. Trevisan (25), Italy, 6-3, 6-0.

MEN'S DOUBLES (quarterfinals)—Nicolas Mahut, France, and Austin Krajicek, d. Maximo Gonzalez-Andres Molteni, Argentina, 6-3, 6-7 (8), 10-7.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES (quarterfinals)—Taylor Townsend, and Leylah Annie Fernandez, Canada, d. Lyudmyla Kichenok, Ukraine,-Jelena Ostapenko (3), Latvia, 2-6, 7-6 (4), 10-8; Magda Linette, Poland, and Bernarda Pera, d. Irina-Camelia Begu, Romania-Anhelina Kalinina, Ukraine, 6-3, 7-6 (5).

Los Angeles Times

SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 2023 :: LATIMES.COM/SPORTS

JAE C. HONG Associated Press

DENNIS SCHRODER has taken hard contact, like this play against Jordan Poole and the Warriors, and come back for more. "He's leaving it all on the floor, laying everything out on the line for us to get a win," teammate Anthony Davis says. "And it's contagious."

Built for ups and downs

The smallest player on the Lakers has been their most durable

DAN WOIKE
ON THE LAKERS

Long after the Lakers' locker room has cleared out, the smallest player on the team waddles toward his locker.

Dennis Schroder has been beaten up. His legs are wrecked. And his postgame massage has outlasted any stragglers in the room.

None of his teammates has had the season he has. He's played the most minutes of any Laker, often running to the point of exhaustion. He's grabbed at his shorts and gritted his teeth after rolling an ankle.

With players entering and exiting all the time, Schroder has been a constant for the Lakers.

"I trust him," coach Darvin Ham said in the hallway after a recent win.

The numbers aren't all flattering.

He's making 41.9% of his shots — just a hair better than Russell Westbrook's 41.7% while with the Lakers. Schroder's playing time has been scrutinized by fans, who have pined for more minutes for any number of Lakers wings.

But take a 30-second stretch from the Lakers' win last week against Oklahoma City and you'll see why Ham believes so much in his 29-year-old sometime starter, sometime reserve point guard.

With the Lakers clinging to a four-point lead late in the third quarter, Lonnie Walker IV drove the baseline before the ball squirted out and sailed up the middle of the court. Thunder reserve Isaiah Joe bolted after it, starting what could be an easy fast break.

Schroder, though, quickly turned and sprinted after it, diving in to snatch the loose ball. He passed it to Wenyen Gabriel, who started a fast break for the Lakers.

But after Gabriel passed it to a slashing Malik Beasley, the ball was poked loose again. The Thunder tried to throw a baseball pass to Joe, who was still in the Lakers' backcourt, but Schroder, like a cornerback who had been beaten deep, turned and made a miraculous interception to stop another Thunder fast break.

He brought the ball up the court, drew a foul, fell to the floor and stayed there — his lungs gasping for air.

"I almost passed out," he said with a laugh later that night.

"And as coaches, that's what we preach. That's what we've been preaching since Day 1, competitiveness, togetherness and accountability," Ham said. "So, you saw that. That was on full display tonight and I expect it to continue and to become even greater."

Some other numbers bear out what that moment showed.

Among players who began the sea-

[See **Lakers,** B7]

MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ Associated Press

SCHRODER has shot only slightly better than Russell Westbrook did, but his plus-minus rating is among the best on team.

Lakers' remaining games

Date	Opponent (record)	Standing
Wed.	at Chicago (36-39)	10th in East
Fri.	at Minnesota (39-37)	6th in West
Sun.	at Houston (18-58)	15th in West
Tues.	at Utah (35-40)	12th in West
April 5	at CLIPPERS (40-36)	5th in West
April 7	vs. Phoenix (40-35)	4th in West
April 9	vs. Utah (35-40)	12th in West

Reports: Buyers submit bids to Snyder

Commanders owner gets offers for team, including from a group with Magic Johnson.

By Sam Farmer

PHOENIX — The process of finding a new owner for the Washington Commanders has entered a new phase.

According to multiple reports, a group led by Josh Harris and Mitchell Rales — and including Lakers legend Magic Johnson — has submitted a fully financed bid for the franchise, now owned by the embattled Daniel Snyder. ESPN, citing an unnamed source, has reported the group has met Snyder's $6-billion asking price.

But there are more billionaires in the mix, among them Canadian developer Steve Apostolopoulos — ESPN has reported he too has submitted a bid of $6 billion — and Houston Rockets owner Tilman Fertitta. Some people anticipate Amazon founder Jeff Bezos to enter the fray.

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, who spoke at the conclusion of the meetings, said the league got an update on the Commanders' situation Tuesday afternoon.

"The Washington Commanders are obviously the ones conducting the process on the sale," Goodell said. "If there's a sale, they will notify us and we will proceed on that one."

Speculation about new owners has been percolating since November, when Daniel and his wife, Tanya, announced they had hired Bank of America to begin the process of potentially selling part or all of the team.

The anticipated sale of the Commanders, which requires approval of three-quarters of the other 31 clubs, is a major topic at the annual league meetings. The Denver Broncos were the last NFL franchise to change hands, selling for a record $4.65 billion in August.

The widely unpopular Snyder is at the center of multiple investigations into the running of his team. According to a congressional

[See **NFL meetings,** B9]

Backup dancer knows his moves

Super fan Lim has UCLA gymnasts' routines down 'on the dot'

By Thuc Nhi Nguyen

Almost no one in the world can match Brooklyn Moors' artistry. Josh Lim is only here to try.

As the UCLA gymnast debuted a new floor routine in an exhibition performance March 5, Lim stood in the front row of the student section at Pauley Pavilion. When Moors, an Olympic all-around finalist for Canada who is known for her elegance on floor, dipped her head, arched her back and dramatically lowered herself to the floor during her routine, there was Lim, a bespectacled third-year student majoring in applied mathematics and statistics, matching her every move.

Lim was out of focus in the background of a floor-level video, but he still drew attention.

"The boy in the back!" a tweet with a short video read. "You. Better. Work."

[See **UCLA,** B6]

GARY CORONADO Los Angeles Times

UCLA STUDENT Josh Lim, middle, and his friend Laura DeFalco, left, copy a Bruins gymnast March 11. Lim has been a fixture at UCLA meets this season.

Dodgers, Angels officially on clock

Time rule takes effect for real Thursday. Pitchers and batters say it's time to focus.

By Mike DiGiovanna

Bases loaded, two outs, bottom of the ninth inning, home team down by a run, full count on the batter, who steps out of the box to take a deep breath and gather himself while the pitch clock winds down from nine seconds, to eight seconds, to seven seconds …

Strike three! Game over!

Dodgers manager Dave Roberts did not hesitate this week when asked how he liked baseball's new pitch clock, which requires pitchers to start their delivery within 15 seconds of receiving the ball with the bases empty and 20 seconds with a runner on, and batters to be set and looking at the pitcher with eight seconds left on the clock.

"Love it," Roberts said enthusiastically. "I think the players are adjusting to it, but just the rhythm of the game, the time of the game … all that is going to leave everyone wanting for more the next day, and I think that's a good thing."

But Roberts might not be praising the pitch clock in late September if an automatic strike ends a one-run Dodgers loss that has National League West race implications.

"It's just gonna be more frustrating when there's [a pitch clock] infraction in a big moment," Dodgers pitcher Clayton Kershaw said. "You don't want playoff games, big important games down the stretch, decided by that. We don't want any game decided by that. But I don't think we're gonna get any grace, so we've just got to figure it out."

If there is one thing umpires made clear during a month's worth of exhibitions leading up to Thursday's opening day, it's that pitch clock rules will be strictly en-

[See **Pitch clock,** B8]

MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ Associated Press

DEFENSEMAN Vladislav Gavrikov, battling Nashville's Philip Tomasino, has been a key addition for a Kings team vying for the top playoff seed in the West.

NHL ROUNDTABLE

Kings are looking like legit contenders

By Los Angeles Times staff

With the NHL playoffs three weeks away, the Kings have established themselves as one of the best teams in the Western Conference, if not the league. Their 7-6 victory over the St. Louis Blues on Sunday at Crypto.com Arena established a franchise record for consecutive games with a point at 12 (10-0-2).

The Kings are 15-3-3 since the All-Star break, putting them in contention for the Pacific Division title and the top spot in the West. They are seventh in the NHL with 96 points.

A second consecutive postseason for the Kings (43-21-10) is a virtual lock. The only lock for the Southland's other team, the Ducks, is that they will miss the playoffs for the fifth season in a row. Anaheim is 23-41-10 and 29th out of 32 teams in points.

Can the Kings seriously contend for the Stanley Cup? And when will the Ducks be back in playoff contention? Times columnist and Hockey Hall of Fame honoree Helene Elliott, along with Times hockey editor Hans Tesselaar (a former Kings season-seat holder) and Times staffers Curtis Zupke (former beat writer for both teams) and Jim Barrero (a current Kings season-seat holder) discussed these topics and more.

What should the expectations be for the Kings this postseason?

Elliott: They have to get at least two rounds deep for this to be considered a successful season. The Kings are scoring well, defending well, getting production from their power play and getting balanced scoring. They gave up a franchise icon in Jonathan Quick plus a first-round pick for Joonas Korpisalo and Vladislav Gavrikov, both of whom can walk as unrestricted free agents. To exit the playoffs early and then face the possibility of losing both players without compensation would be a big setback. General manager Rob Blake went for the home run, knowing there's no dominant team in the West they must fear. It was the right call, but there's no guarantee he will succeed.

Zupke: The second round, at the very least, which would, remarkably, be their first playoff series win since 2014. I think what it boils down to with their playoff run is: How are they going to fare against Colorado, Dallas or Vegas, because that's who they're eventually going to have to go through.

Barrero: At minimum, the Kings need to advance one round and even that might be considered a disappointment. But with the West being so open and the Kings playing their best hockey of late, reaching the Stanley Cup Final wouldn't be an unreasonable expectation. I think I would realistically be satisfied anywhere in the middle of those two.

Tesselaar: A season ago, making the postseason — after missing out for three years in a row — was the goal. The expectations are higher this season and should be considering their level of play. Reaching the Western Conference final at a minimum is the goal.

It's impossible at this point to say who the Kings will play in the first round. But who would they match up best with? And who would be the team to most avoid in the West?

Elliott: They've beaten Edmonton twice this season but be careful about rooting for a matchup with Connor McDavid and Leon Draisaitl, because you might get more than you can handle. They're 0-1-2 versus Seattle, including a 9-8 overtime loss, and they don't want to get caught up in that kind of game. They're 2-0-0 vs. Colorado and 1-1 versus Winnipeg. Jets goaltender Connor Hellebuyck has good playoff numbers (2.46 goals-against average, .921 save percentage in 35 postseason games), so that could be a problem for the Kings.

Barrero: Frankly I feel good about any team the Kings would play in the first round since it probably takes Vegas out of the equation as the teams teams battle for the top spot in the Pacific. The Kings' defense keeps them in most games and therefore I don't see a bad matchup. Is it crazy to say Seattle might be? The Kraken have won all three games this season, but those were early. Let's revisit after their game in Seattle on April Fool's Day. Lastly, if the Kings finish first in the Pacific, I don't think I would be too fond of them matching up with Colorado if the Avalanche were to fall into a wild-card spot. Not likely, but you never know.

Tesselaar: Colorado is the defending Stanley Cup champion, so a matchup with the Avalanche would be as stern a test as possible. What is really needed is a Kings-Vegas series with Jonathan Quick in goal for the Golden Knights. Just imagine the story lines.

The Kings traded Quick on March 1 and since acquiring Korpisalo and Gavrikov, they hadn't lost in regulation until a 2-1 loss to Calgary on Tuesday. It's too easy to say that's the only reason they've played so well this month, but what has the trade done for the Kings?

Elliott: It has given them new life in the form of a bigger defense that's better balanced in terms of left- and right-handed shooters, and a calm, reliable goaltender. They're still not very big on defense but Gavrikov gives them a physical presence and has good instincts on when to go forward. Players were genuinely surprised that Blake traded Quick — and Drew Doughty has made it clear he didn't like it — but they've realized how much Gavrikov and Korpisalo can contribute toward the team moving forward and taking a big step toward contention.

Zupke: Gavrikov was probably an overlooked part of that trade. He's exactly what they needed on the blue line — a big, rugged, left-shot defender who can play a safe, simple game. But I think what's really going on with the Kings is that their lineup is ideally slotted now — they've got a balanced attack, a go-to-line (Trevor Moore-Phillip Danault-Viktor Arvidsson) and a 20-goal scorer on the third line (Gabriel Vilardi). Everyone knows their role, which is a hallmark of a successful playoff team.

Barrero: Once the initial shock of the traded subsided, I think the players realized this was a move that showed belief in what this team could be in the here and now. Take the emotion out, and this was a brilliant move as it shored up two very important areas. The Kings have the best goals-against average in the NHL since the trade and have given up more than two goals in regulation and overtime only once this month (12 games). Two of their three losses in March have come in shootouts. In watching Gavrikov, he does so many things that won't show up in a box score or basic statistics. It's clear the new players have seamlessly fit in and strengthened an already strong chemistry.

Tesselaar: Quick's place in Kings history is secure. The trade may help the franchise secure even more history.

The Ducks host the Kings on April 13 in a game that will end another disappointing season for Anaheim. What must the Ducks do to make themselves relevant moving forward?

Elliott: Where to begin. ... Clear out all the older players and turn the reins over to Troy Terry, Trevor Zegras, Lukas Dostal, Mason McTavish, and the deep pile of prospects they've drafted and/or developed. They also need a new coach. General manager Pat Verbeek inherited coach Dallas Eakins and knew there was no hope the team would contend, so Verbeek hoped Eakins could at least hold the fort and help their kids develop. Time for a new coach who can set and enforce higher standards. Also, they have to hope they win the draft lottery.

Zupke: Defense has to be a big part of it. They're giving up a league-worst 4.04 goals per game and it's often looked comically bad. Obviously it's going to be an important offseason for Verbeek with the draft and free agency, but a lot of has to do with building identity. Who's going to be their, say, Phillip Danault?

Barrero: I'm a bit stumped that the Ducks weren't better this season, but perhaps they're asking too much of Terry and Zegras at this stage. Blake and the Kings have been criticized at times the last few seasons for being too slow to give their kids a shot. But perhaps the Ducks are a case study as to what happens when you do it too soon. In their case, maybe it's out of necessity. That said, until they establish three solid defense pairings, they won't be going anywhere. John Gibson can only do so much. And losing defenseman Jamie Drysdale in October certainly hurt. The Ducks' minus-112 goal differential is by far the NHL's worst.

The Boston Bruins could set an NHL record for wins and points in a season. They are the overwhelming favorites to win the Cup. Can anyone beat them four times in a series?

Elliott: Probably not in the early rounds. By the time the conference final and Cup Final come around, every team has some bumps and bruises. If the Bruins can withstand some nicks and bruises, they can win it all.

Zupke: The short answer? No. But there's going to be tremendous pressure on them. I remember when the Ducks we're about to make their playoff run in '07, and the big question was: Can you imagine if they lost that first playoff game? It's really more about how they handle adversity. And can we just skip right ahead to that Boston-Toronto series?

Barrero: I honestly don't see anyone beating them, though the Bruins have shown some vulnerabilities the last few weeks. But after losing three of four, they won seven in a row before losing Tuesday, so maybe it was just a natural letdown in a grueling season as the postseason nears. Frankly, if Boston falls short and doesn't win the Cup, it will be an utter failure after the bar that has been set. But hockey can be a strange sport, with Presidents' Trophy winners falling short more often than not.

Tesselaar: As Jim points out, winning the Presidents' Trophy doesn't guarantee anything except home-ice advantage in every series. The 2012-13 Chicago Blackhawks are the last Presidents' Trophy winner to capture the Cup. Still, it's hard to see a team that has only 12 losses in regulation dropping four out of seven in a series.

It's the middle of June. What are the Kings doing at that point? And what day — wink, wink — is the parade?

Zupke: I'm done covering parades! The Metro section is going have to step in. Again, it comes down to whether they have the horses (ahem, goaltending) to knock off, say, a Colorado or a Dallas. I'm not completely sold, but they're playing as well as any team.

Barrero: We've seen what adding a dynamic playmaker and scorer such as Kevin Fiala can do, but perhaps adding one more similar player would be at the top of the wish list. Oh, and re-signing Gavrikov and Korpisalo. I'm already sold and I hope they see the opportunity this team has over the next several seasons to make some noise and factor that into wanting to be here. Lastly, make sure the parade is on a Monday or Tuesday so I can attend.

Elliott: Starting their parade in your backyard, Hans?

Tesselaar: I better get the lawnmower gassed up just in case.

JEFF McINTOSH Associated Press

CONNOR McDAVID of Edmonton celebrates scoring on Jonathan Quick, who lies on the ice, in Game 7 of their series last year. With Quick gone, can the Kings get past the first round?

Los Angeles Times
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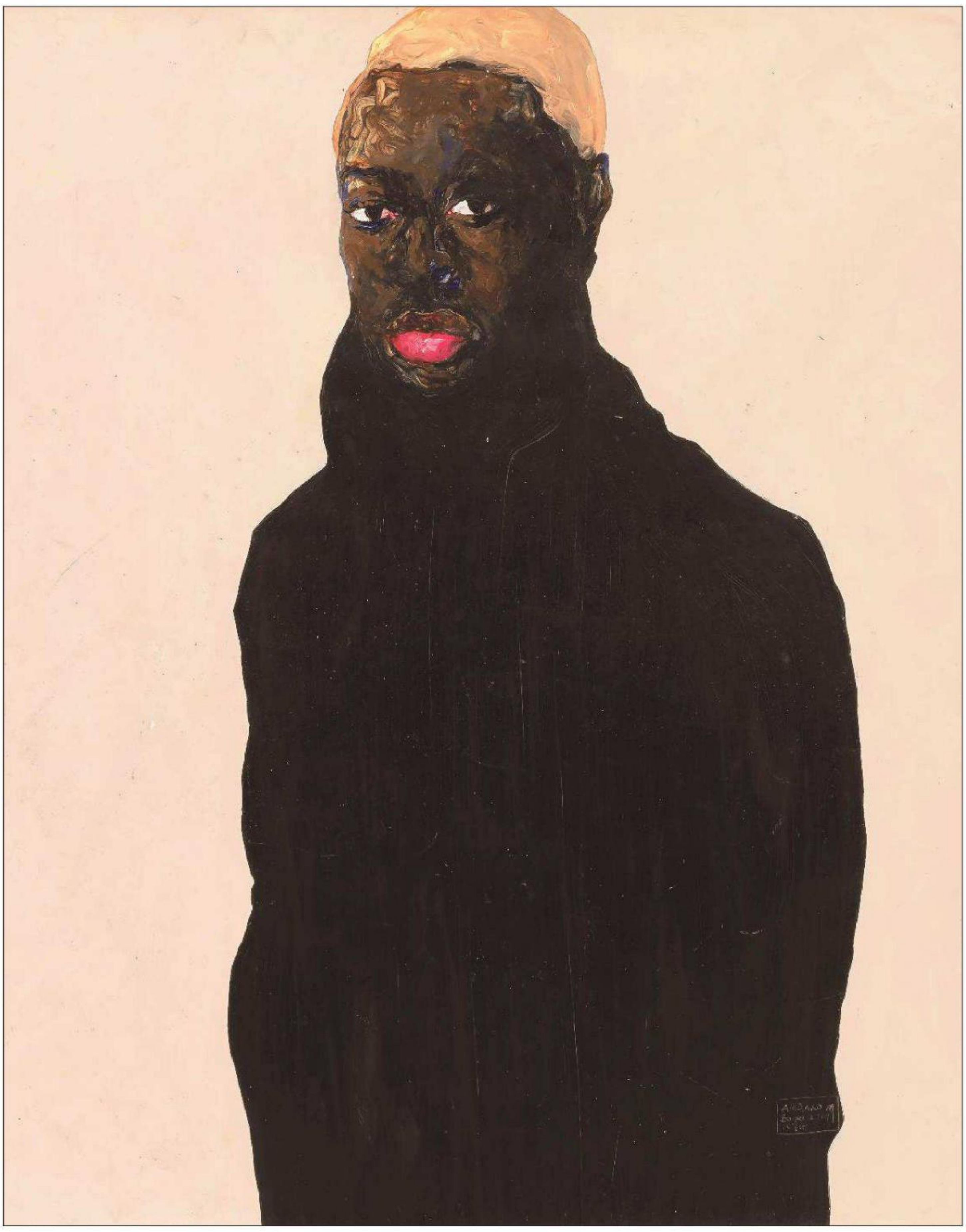

UCLA Hammer Museum

AMOAKO BOAFO'S oil painting "Hudson Burk 1" (2019) and other vigorous works in the Hammer's collection are on view.

ART REVIEW

Impressive gathering

The Hammer amassed a dynamic contemporary collection. Keep it on view.

By Christopher Knight ART CRITIC >>> Over the last two decades, the UCLA Hammer Museum has dramatically transitioned from a vanity-fueled embarrassment to a vibrant cultural institution. The leap is large. Today it is one of our liveliest art museums — not just in the city, but in the nation.

As befits its affiliation with a great public university, the exhibitions and programs are framed as forums for art's inherent representation of — and active attention to — important societal facts and issues, both cultural and political. Social justice, in form as well as subject matter, has been a continuous story line. Art made by women, BIPOC and LGBTQ artists has been prominent, although not to the exclusion of traditionally acknowledged work by straight white men.

In short, the Hammer is the Woke Museum. Commendably so. No art museum occupies a pinnacle if it is not enthusiastically admired by artists young and old, and this one is.

To unveil its latest, and perhaps most dramatic, architectural renovation and expansion, the Hammer has now launched a fleet of small exhib-

[See **Hammer,** E5]

Comic leaves well enough alone

Celebrity spoofer Celeste Barber stars in Netflix comedy about the wellness craze.

By Meredith Blake

If you're one of the 9.5 million people who follow Celeste Barber on Instagram, you already know the Australian comedian will do just about anything for a laugh.

There's no bikini too small and no pose too ludicrous for the 40-year-old, whose self-deprecating spoofs of celebrities like Kendall Jenner and Emily Ratajkowski have, ironically enough, turned her into a major influencer, one who uses her relatable physique to send up the unattainable standards of social media.

Now she's bringing her exuberant brand of comedy to "Wellmania," a Netflix series exploring the extreme and often dubious lengths people are willing to go to in the name of wellness.

Loosely adapted from "Wellmania: Extreme Misadventures in the Search for Wellness," a book by Australian journalist Brigid Delaney, the series stars Barber as Liv Healy, a hard-partying food writer forced to overhaul her decadent lifestyle and trade in cocaine for colonics after a health crisis.

The series, developed as a vehicle for Barber, is a showcase for her extremely physical style of performance: In the pilot episode, Liv crashes through a glass coffee table.

"It's my favorite thing to do," said Barber in a video chat from her home in Sydney, where she lives with her

[See **Barber,** E4]

Evan Agostini Invision/AP

Pride in the Park pops off

The music festival has announced that Mariah Carey and Megan Thee Stallion will headline. **E4**

Comics **E6-7**
Puzzles **E6**

THEATER REVIEW

Storm, Shakespeare and selfies

A hybrid, immersive staging of the magical 'Tempest' devises its own kind of sorcery.

CHARLES McNULTY
THEATER CRITIC

You'll have to board a ship if you wish to see the new production of "The Tempest" at the Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles. Audience members are issued boarding passes for their return trip to Italy, joining the royal swells as they make their way back from Tunis, where they celebrated the marriage of the daughter of Alonso, king of Naples.

Readers of Shakespeare's late romance will

[See **'Tempest,'** E2]

Brian Hashimoto

CHRIS BUTLER is Prospero in a Shakespeare Center/After Hours collaboration.

TELEVISION REVIEW

A cosmic question with a comedic twist

Your life's potential? Chris O'Dowd & Co. ponder possibilities in 'The Big Door Prize.'

ROBERT LLOYD
TELEVISION CRITIC

Premiering Wednesday on Apple TV+, "The Big Door Prize" is "based on the book created by M.O. Walsh," as it is unusually credited here, and developed by David West Read, a writer and producer on "Schitt's Creek."

Once again, we are in a whimsical small town, called Deerfield, full of characters who are full of character — your typical television hamlet, at once multicultural and culturally generic. An Anytown, with its grocery, bar, restaurant and high school. Most everyone knows most everyone.

One day, a machine appears in the grocery store. It looks something like an '80s arcade game, glows blue and bears the image of a butterfly and the words "Morpho. Discover Your Life Potential."

No one knows how it got there — or if anyone does, they aren't saying — or what makes it go. But its purpose is to dispense a card that, in a word, maybe two, reveals something essential about the user. The townspeople line up to pay the $2 — and, adding the incredible to the

[See **'Door Prize,'** E4]

Now boarding: an interactive ‘Tempest’

[**‘Tempest,’** from E1]

remember that this ship runs into a tempest that disgorges its passengers onto a strange island in the middle of nowhere. Here, Prospero and his daughter, Miranda, have made their home for 12 years, ever since Prospero’s conniving brother, Antonio, conspired to steal his dukedom.

This collaboration between the Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles and After Hours Theatre Company is a hybrid offering. Subtitled “An Immersive Experience,” the production begins in an interactive mode, with groups of audience members invited to mill about the ship, experience the catastrophic effect of the storm and explore some of the sights of the island once we’re washed ashore.

My immersive tour included some friendly banter with one of the more rascally shipmates and a visit to the grave of Sycorax, the witch who was exiled to the island, where she “littered” monstrous Caliban and tormented the gentle spirit Ariel. I also poked my head in a few huts, but the Instagram hordes prevented me from investigating what was inside. (No, not even Prospero’s island is a selfie-free zone anymore.)

Theatergoers then take their seats for a more traditional revival. The sit-down portion of the play begins with Miranda grieving the shipwreck that we’ve all just experienced for ourselves. Prospero explains that the tragedy is an illusion under his command. The stars aligned for him to deploy his formidable magic to right the wrongs that left them stranded on a desert island.

K.T. VOGT, as Stephano, right, acts alongside Daniel T. Parker as Trinculo in the immersive “Tempest.”

Content to live a life of secluded study, he has decided to act for the sake of Miranda’s future. The prospect of revenge is not incidental, but it’s tempered by the value of forgiveness, which he recognizes even if he’s unable to forget the treachery that forced him and his daughter to flee Milan.

In the central role of Prospero, Chris Butler emphasizes the storm blowing inside the character’s mind. His interpretation is a far cry from the melancholy old magician who intones Shakespeare’s poetry with the grave solemnity of John Gielgud, who put his indelible stamp on the role. The hint of Southern fury in Butler’s voice suggests a Prospero closer to home.

Bitter experience has engendered authoritarian impulses in Prospero. He works to keep them in check, but Shakespeare illustrates in this character the way righteous indignation can flirt with despotism.

A seething Prospero is completely understandable, but some of the music of Shakespeare’s wordplay gets lost in the hostility. When Butler’s Prospero refers to Miranda as “a third of mine own life” while bestowing her on Ferdinand, he seems more resentful than beneficent. (Harriet Walter’s Prospero balanced wrath with verbal rapture in her mesmerizing performance in an all-female production.) Still, Butler’s sheer ferocity and ruthless unsentimentality make for a bracing update.

“The Tempest” is fascinated by the dangerous allure of power. Violent rebellion is in the air. The play recognizes that politics can’t be divorced from the flaws in our psychological makeup, but since perfect human beings don’t exist, the best we can do is learn from our mistakes and move forward accordingly.

Ben Donenberg, the artistic director and founder of Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles, meets “The Tempest” with a 21st century cast in a revival that doesn’t treat the play as allegory. Instead, he allows political interpretations to arise through the particular qualities and life experiences of his actors. The approach is pluralistic. Ideas are welcomed without an overriding ideological agenda.

Photographs by BRIAN HASHIMOTO

PAUL STANKO is master of the ship, which guests can explore before the play.

Caliban, Prospero’s malformed lackey, has been reclaimed by postcolonial critics as an example of an oppressed “other,” an enslaved man whose dignity has been denied by European imperialists. The character is indeed oppressed, but he is also an invasive presence on the island — a native by dint of his mother’s banishment who would himself be conqueror, given half a chance. His malevolence can’t be undercut without losing sight of his attempted rape of Miranda.

Wayne T. Carr, wearing a lumpy costume by designer Dana Rebecca Woods that slips past existing taxonomies, doesn’t play down the character’s sinister machinations. But he finds a complicated dignity in Caliban’s language, which has moments of surpassing beauty.

The redemption is subtle, implicit and not at odds with the drama. Indeed, this “savage,” as Shakespeare took pains to note in his complicated depiction of Caliban, is a good deal more civilized than the drunken riffraff with whom he falls into cahoots.

Trinculo (Daniel T. Parker), a jester, and Stephano (K.T. Vogt), a royal butler, have reunited on the island in Caliban’s company. They are characterized in costume and farcical manner as Tweedledum and Tweedledee. Caliban gives these fellows the idea of killing Prospero and taking over the island, but they quickly reveal themselves to be his moral inferiors.

The comedy of their scenes is more physical than verbal, but Vogt and Parker’s intrepid slapstick doesn’t solve the problem of their largely impenetrable banter. (This section of “The Tempest,” linguistically lost to modern audiences, cries out for fearless adaptation.)

At the heart of “The Tempest” is a love story, and Ulato Sam deserves praise for his princely portrayal of Ferdinand, heir to the throne of Naples, who many in the royal party assume has died at sea. Miranda (a refreshing Kay Sibal) is smitten instantly — and no doubt she is as seduced by his beautiful eloquence as she is by his gracious manners and good looks.

Shakespeare’s power as a dramatist is at its zenith when actors find their characters in the rhythm and meaning of their lines. Once again, Peter Van Norden raises the bar. Last year he delivered a lip-smacking Polonius in the Antaeus Theatre Company production of “Hamlet.” This time he gives life to a more endearing dispenser of moral wisdom in Gonzalo, faithful counselor to Alonso (Leith Burke) and the friend who aided Prospero in his escape after his dukedom was lost.

Van Norden — a local Shakespearean treasure — makes Gonzalo honorable yet not entirely immune from the ridicule of Antonio (Rodney Gardiner), Prospero’s brother, and Sebastian (Christopher Rivera), Alonso’s brother, who are plotting their own vicious coup. If these villains had Van Norden’s verbal dexterity, their cynical mischief would be not just funnier but also more chilling.

But words aren’t the only magic in this production. One of the most moving sounds that is heard is the long exhalation of Jin Maley’s Ariel after Prospero sets this attending spirit free. No song that is set to composer Michael Roth’s otherworldly music has the impact of this poignant sigh of relief.

The Shakespeare scholar Anne Barton observed that “The Tempest” “compels a peculiarly creative response.” The element of sorcery and the special effects it conjures, along with the array of personages, human and supernatural, and the compact nature of the plot and poetry, encourage not just directorial freedom but experimental wackiness. No play of Shakespeare’s seems to inspire so much risk-taking.

‘The Tempest: An Immersive Experience’

Where: Shakespeare Center L.A., 1238 W. 1st St., L.A.

When: 7 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays, 2 p.m. Saturdays-Sundays. (Check for staggered start times.) Ends April 16.

Running time: 2 hours, 30 minutes

Tickets: $49-$129 (subject to change)

Info: *tempestla.org*

The interactive dimension of this revival sets up logistical complications that can leave a gimmicky impression (despite the attractive immersive design of Sara Beil). But beyond creating the sense of “event” that theater seems to need these days, the immersive introduction helps transport the audience to a different state of consciousness — and so there’s value beyond trendiness.

The play’s ending is profoundly stirring, and this production beautifully realizes the emotional power of Prospero’s reconciliation scene. Butler doesn’t so much soften his Prospero as he expands his vision. The happy resolution is earned by more than hocus-pocus. Rancor and resentment are never out of view, but trust is renewed as innocence and experience bravely embark on a new journey.

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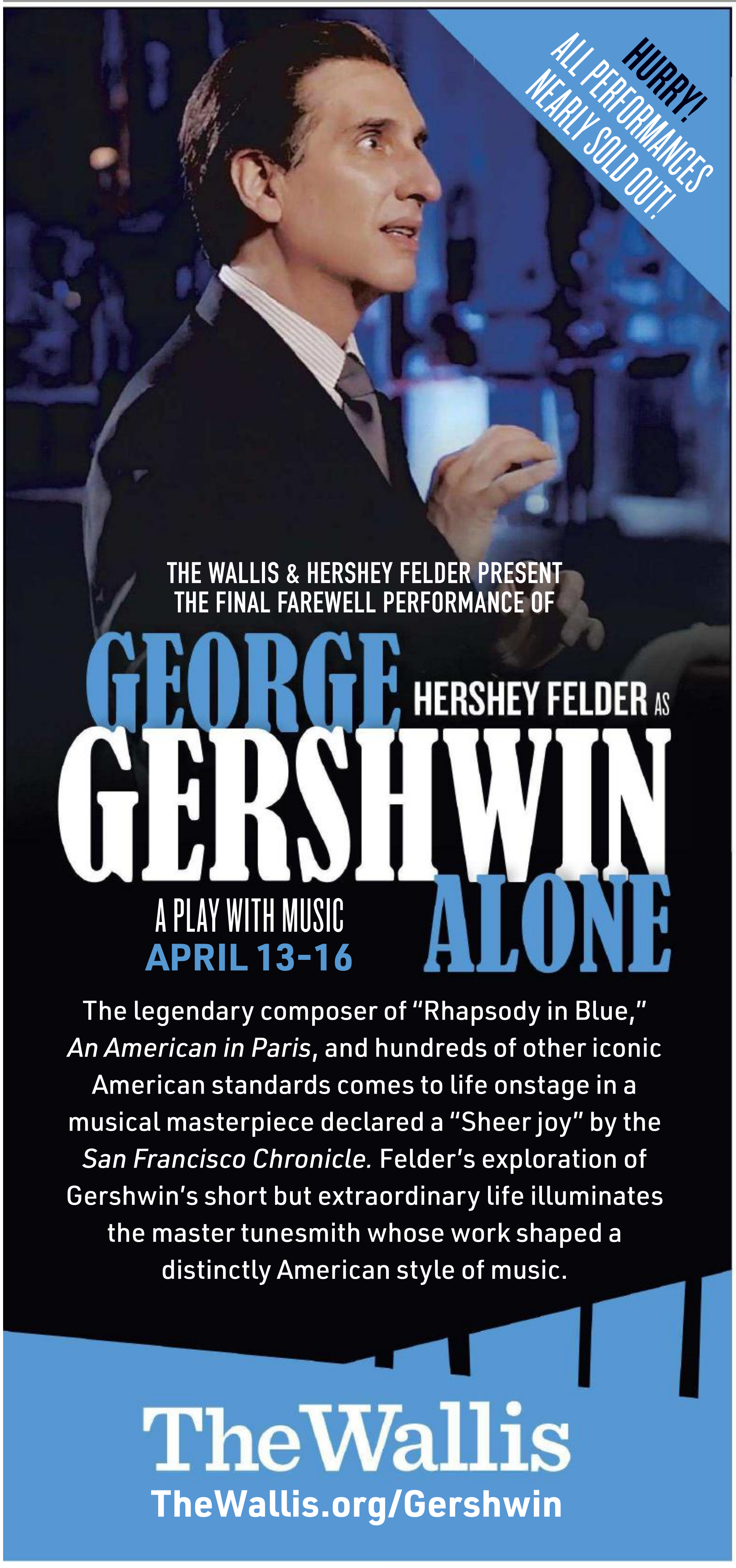
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RODEO
1:20 4:20 7:10
LA CIVIL
3:50 PM
COUP 53
7:00 PM
THE FORGER
1:00 PM
TEHRANTO
1:30 4:30 7:20

MONICA
1332 Second Street Santa Monica
THE LOST KING PG-13
1:20 4:30 7:20
THE TUTOR R
7:20 PM
INSIDE R
1:20 PM
MOVING ON R
1:00 3:10 5:20 7:30
THE QUIET GIRL PG-13
1:30 7:10
CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON PG-13
4:00 PM
RETURN TO SEOUL R
4:10 7:10
A DIFFICULT LIFE (UNA VITA DIFFICILE) NR
1:00 4:00 7:00
THE WHALE R
4:20 PM

TOWN CENTER
17200 Ventura Blvd. Encino
A GOOD PERSON R
1:00 4:00 7:00
THE LOST KING PG-13
1:20 4:20 7:20
MOVING ON R
12:50 5:10
THE QUIET GIRL PG-13
1:30 4:30 7:30
THE FORGER
1:00 4:10 7:10
TEHRANTO
2:55 7:20

NEWHALL
22500 Lyons Ave. Santa Clarita
ENYS MEN
7:30 PM
A GOOD PERSON R
1:15 4:15 7:20
JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 4 R
12:50 4:00 7:30
THE LOST KING PG-13
1:30 7:10
THE SCHOOL OF MAGICAL ANIMALS PG
12:55 5:20
INSIDE R
4:20 PM
MOVING ON R
3:10 7:35
SHAZAM! FURY OF THE GODS PG-13
1:00 4:30 7:40
65 PG-13
12:50 3:10 5:25 7:40
CHAMPIONS PG-13
1:00 4:00

GLENDALE
207 N. Maryland Ave Glendale
ENYS MEN
7:30 PM
JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 4 R
12:50 3:50 7:30
SHAZAM! FURY OF THE GODS PG-13
12:50 4:00 7:00
THE QUIET GIRL PG-13
1:20 PM
PACIFICTION
4:00 PM
RETURN TO SEOUL R
4:20 PM
SUZHOU RIVER NR
1:30 7:40
A DIFFICULT LIFE (UNA VITA DIFFICILE) NR
1:00 7:30
APE VS. MECHA APE
4:30 PM

NoHo 7
5240 Lankershim Blvd. No. Hollywood
ENYS MEN
7:30 PM
A GOOD PERSON R
1:00 4:00 7:00
JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 4 R
12:50 4:00 7:30
THE LOST KING PG-13
1:20 4:20 7:20
INSIDE R
1:30 4:20
SHAZAM! FURY OF THE GODS PG-13
1:00 4:30 7:40
TWO FRIENDS
1:10 4:10 7:10
SCREAM VI R
1:10 4:10 7:10

CLAREMONT
450 W. 2nd Street Claremont
ENYS MEN
7:30 PM
JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 4 R
12:50 4:00 7:30
THE LOST KING PG-13
1:10 7:40
MOVING ON R
4:30 PM
SHAZAM! FURY OF THE GODS PG-13
1:00 4:00 7:00
SCREAM VI R
1:10 4:10 7:10
STATICA
1:20 4:20 7:20

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*In memoriam

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GINA FERAZZI Los Angeles Times

MEGAN THEE STALLION says she's "honored to perform" at L.A. Pride in the Park concert in June.

Pop in the name of pride

Mariah Carey and Megan Thee Stallion are this year's Pride in the Park headliners.

By August Brown

One year after L.A. Pride moved from its longtime home in West Hollywood, SoCal's flagship LGBTQ+ event returns with a star-packed bill comparable to any on L.A.'s music festival scene.

R&B-pop icon Mariah Carey and hip-hop star Megan Thee Stallion will lead the lineup of this year's L.A. Pride in the Park, which takes place in Chinatown's Los Angeles State Historic Park on June 9 (with Megan) and 10 (with Carey), followed by the traditional parade through Hollywood on June 11.

The remaining music performers will be announced at a later date. Weekend passes begin at $89, single days at $49.

"Having two women of color headline the event was very intentional," said Gerald Garth, the board president of L.A. Pride. "Both have been groundbreaking in their own rights by centering women's empowerment. Mariah's been a fan favorite among the LGBT community for decades, and she's been a great friend and supporter, and Megan is the same."

Carey's perennial holiday hit, "All I Want for Christmas Is You," topped the Billboard Hot 100 yet again in December; all told, she has 19 No. 1 singles, the most for any solo artist. Megan Thee Stallion's latest album, "Traumazine," debuted at No. 4 on the Billboard 200 in August.

In a statement, Carey said she was "thrilled and honored to be a part of L.A. Pride, to celebrate love and inclusion," while Megan Thee Stallion saw the fest as "an incredible event [that] advocates for diversity, inclusivity and equality, so I'm honored to perform."

The 2023 edition comes after perhaps the most tumultuous period in the fest's history. After missing out on its 50th anniversary due to the pandemic, and then butting heads with the city of West Hollywood over questions about the event's race and gender inclusiveness and ambitions for top-tier music programming, L.A. Pride and its parent firm, Christopher Street West, moved the parade one neighborhood over into Hollywood and the music fest into Chinatown.

Christina Aguilera, Anitta and Kim Petras headlined last year's festival, the first since the pandemic hit, and Paula Abdul was the first "icon grand marshal" of the parade.

A separate West Hollywood Pride event took its place in the longtime gay mecca, where Cardi B and Janelle Monáe made cameos in the parade.

While tens of thousands attended both events in a jubilant return, Garth said that the typically exuberant gathering will have to acknowledge the scale of challenges faced by LGBTQ+ people in L.A. and nationwide, as anti-trans and anti-drag bills are proposed and passed across the country.

"Pride began as a protest," Garth said. "We fold in moments of celebration, and this is a great festival, but there is also a responsibility to uplift the community's needs," like health and wellness alongside specific workshops and programming for Black artists, Latin film-industry professionals and queer women in comedy.

Drag performances, a generations-old staple at Pride events and in wider LGBTQ+ culture, have come under attack in states like Tennessee and Florida, which have either banned many drag performances or begun investigations into performers. Bills in 22 states, including Utah and Texas, have specifically targeted gender-affirming healthcare for trans youth.

While it's hard to imagine any such law passing in California today, just 15 years ago voters in the state passed a ballot initiative to ban gay marriage. Pride month has always been a celebration of resilience, but Garth knows that backsliding is possible.

"We recognize what our responsibility is within the movement, to prioritize safety and use our platform to elevate our principles," Garth said. "I'm from the South, and a great deal of my advocacy was using what I had when I had it. None of us have to do everything, but all of us have to do something."

From ne'er-do-well to wellness

[**Barber,** from E1]
husband Api Robin — a.k.a. "@HotHusband" — two sons and two stepdaughters.

As a celebration of a messy, imperfect woman, "Wellmania" is in keeping with her other work, including her role in the bracingly realistic postpartum comedy "The Letdown" and, of course, her Instagram persona.

Often billed as a "body-positive" comedian, Barber said activism was never really her goal. "I'm very happy to be caught up in that movement and for people to enjoy my content and have a laugh," she said. "I'm stoked it resonates with women in that way."

Also on the horizon is "Fine, Thanks," a stand-up comedy special for Netflix filmed at the Sydney Opera House. "It's gonna be Celeste Barber-palooza in the next few months," she said.

The Times spoke to Barber about her work — on and off Instagram — and why she believes it's important to "push out the funny."

Netflix

CELESTE BARBER as food writer Liv Healy in the Netflix comedy "Wellmania."

What changes did you make in adapting the book for television?

Brigid's book is a real exploration of the wellness industry. It was like a 15-year process for her. To adapt it for TV, we made it really character-driven. We really built out the idea of this character, Liv Healy, and what is it that's happened to her. Why has she been propelled into this world, and what is she learning from it? We wanted to make it a real character-driven piece about reconnecting with family. The book is our springboard into the world of this bananas woman.

It's safe to say Liv's life is a little different than yours.

She is really unapologetic about her life. She's turning 40, and we didn't feel like we needed to explain why she's on her own or have her trying to figure out why she can't find love. This isn't that story. This is a really dynamic, explosive, fun story about this woman who 100% chooses her choices and just runs at them really hard. And I love doing that. That's a point of departure I have from the character. I'm not as brave as Liv. My sister's name is Olivia, and my sister will just explode into any room. She will take on anything, and I love that about this character as well. [Liv] will throw anything at a wall and whatever sticks — bang! — she'll run with it. She's really proud of treating her body like an amusement park.

What's your general attitude toward the wellness industry? Are you more of a skeptic?

I'm a very big believer in different strokes for different folks. I think I had a green juice a week ago. My husband is more into it than I am. He'll be like, "We're doing apple cider vinegar every morning." I'm like, "We are absolutely not doing that." But one thing I've noticed, living in the world that we live in now, where wellness is everywhere, is that it is a full-time job. It takes a lot of money. It's not cheap. I remember looking at a juice cleanse once and I went, "If we did that as is advised, we could buy a car with the amount of money."

'Wellmania'

Where: Netflix
When: Any time, starting Wednesday
Rating: TV-MA (may be unsuitable for children under the age of 17 with advisories for coarse language, nudity and substance abuse)

How does Australia compare to the U.S. and California in terms of wellness?

We're pretty close behind. It's a Bondi [Beach] thing, a Byron Bay thing. When I order a coffee, [I'll say] "Can I please have a cappuccino?" They go, "Sure, what milk?" And I go, "Just regular milk." "We don't have regular." So, it's a thing.

How would you describe Liv's journey over the course of the series?

I think she learns that you can't keep running. You have to deal with things that have happened in your past, whether they were out of your hands or not. And it's your connection with family, with friends, with yourself, that is the most important thing. It's a pretty excellent, big arc to play. I just think she's bananas.

Have you tried any of the treatments she receives?

I had a colonic years ago, but not for the show. I had emergency open-heart surgery when I was 25. And then as part of recovery a year or so after, I had to get it done. Horrible, horrible thing. However, I felt like I was walking on clouds after that. I had a lot of s— in me. I've also had cupping. And sometimes I put lemon in hot water and call myself a hero. But no, I'm not a crazy detox-y person. I have kids. I don't have the energy or the time for it.

You had open-heart surgery when you were 25? That is really intense.

It was crazy. I had a hole in my heart, and they were meant to just put a little stent in during the hour-and-a-half surgery. But when they tried, it didn't work when they tried to pull the stent out; it snapped in my heart. It was full on. But so long ago.

Does having that kind of a health scare inform your perspective on things?

It gives me a perspective on more than just how I look. You know what I mean? But I think I was like that even before the surgery. I've always put my strongest suit forward. And that's my sense of humor and my ability to make fun of myself. I love doing that. I think for women in entertainment, we're told we've got to be hot first. And then people will pay attention to the things that you do outside of it. I did the complete opposite. I was like, how I look is the least exciting thing about me. This is my strong suit. I just kept pushing out the funny.

Tell me about how the #celestechallengeaccepted started on Instagram.

In the early days of Instagram, my sister and I would send photos to each other. Someone walking through a field of daisies holding a baby going, "School dropoff." And we were like, "Challenge accepted." We'd send photos back and forth to each other. And then it got to a point when those images were being passed off as every day, and if you're not taking your kids to school like this, you're probably not a good mom. So I liked to show the complete opposite.

When did it all blow up? Was it the Kim Kardashian dirt pile?

That's the one where it went bananas. I went down the street to a dirt bike track. About 3 o'clock in the afternoon, I walked out of the house in fishnets, heels and a trench coat. My husband was like, "Where are you going?" I walked down to the end of the street and there's all these teenage boys on their BMX bikes. I walked up and I was like, "Hi, I'm about to do something. It's gonna be pretty weird for you boys. You're welcome to stick around and feel awkward, or you can leave." And they were like, "See ya!" I did that and it took off.

What's the most elaborate one that you've done?

I did one years ago in Bali. It was Lady Gaga doing paddleboard yoga in a pool. My husband surfs, so he had a surfboard, which is a lot smaller than a paddleboard. And I did it for the photo. It was hilarious, but I came off it and the surfboard shot up in the air and came back down and cracked me on my nose.

I wanted to ask you about "The Letdown," which is just a gem of a show. What do you hear from people who've watched it?

People like discovering it again. I really would love to do another season of the show, maybe our kids are school-age now. I'm really trying to pitch to Alison [Bell] and Sarah [Scheller] that we can do another season of that show. I get so many messages from women saying, "I was up at 3 a.m. breastfeeding a screaming child for the ninth night in a row. I haven't slept. I just was watching the show and I felt like I wasn't alone."

Were you always funny or was comedy something you discovered later on?

I always thought I was funny. But it wasn't until later, when I was going through acting school, it was like, "If I want to be a serious actor, I need to be doing Lady Macbeth." I always just found comedy very easy. I thought, if it's not a challenge, maybe it's not worth doing. Then I was working on my first TV show, "All Saints," a medical drama here in Australia I was on for five years.

And my beautiful friend Mark Priestley, who has since passed away, we would film stuff at my house at night, just stupid sketches. I remember one day sitting on set, in between really heavy scenes, writing little sketches. And he said something to me, and I responded like, "Ah, no, it doesn't matter." Very dismissive. And he just looked at me and went, "Can you stop doing that? You're the funniest person I know. And it's getting really boring that you don't know that. You need to accept that this is a really amazing talent of yours." And, bang, it changed that day for me.

Life's potential at stake

[**'Door Prize,'** from E1]
fantastic — no one balks when it asks them to enter a Social Security number. (In Walsh's book, the gizmo reads a person's DNA, which roots it in real-world questions of predictability; here, it's just a matter of magic.)

Ordinarily, one would expect such a premise to lead to mayhem and tragedy as secrets are revealed, desires unsuppressed, rash decisions taken — a horror story, founded on the theory that it is only convention and lies and illusion that hold us together, individually and collectively. Lies and conventions and illusions do play a part in "The Big Door Prize"; rash decisions will be made. But this is a comedy — and not a dark one — that subscribes rather to the notion that change can be good, that the truth sets you free.

Chris O'Dowd plays Dusty, a history teacher who is turning 40, that dangerous age; we get signals that his marriage, to Cass (Gabrielle Dennis), the only relationship he's ever had, might need a jump-start. His less than adventurous — or perhaps simply satisfied — spirit has come to dominate his family, which also includes daughter Trina (Djouliet Amara), who is dealing with the death of a boyfriend and is turning inward and acting out.

Dusty's need for spiritual renovation is manifest in his barely concealed displeasure in receiving a birthday gift he didn't ask for. (That it is a theremin makes this displeasure inexplicable.) That he doesn't like spicy food feels metaphorically significant.

Concerningly, small blue dots have appeared on his backside. To look at them, one would call them more cosmic than cosmetic.

Cass, for her part, once spent a semester in Florence, a memory she preserves with an interest in wine. She has problems with her diffident mother (Crystal R. Fox), the mayor.

The Morpho cards resonate with many Deerfield residents — and nearly everyone receives one — and they begin to measure who they are against who they might have been. Not every card is flattering; some (like "Gum") are confusing, which isn't to say that sense won't be made of them eventually.

Apple TV+

AM I BLUE? Dusty (Chris O'Dowd) is in dire need of some spiritual renovation in "The Big Door Prize."

Only sardonic bartender Hana (Ally Maki) opts out, as any sensible person would.

'The Big Door Prize'

Where: Apple TV+
When: Any time, starting Wednesday
Rating: TV-MA (may be unsuitable for children under age 17)

The cards lead the school principal to buy a motorcycle, the grocer to become a magician, Dusty's parents to divorce — his mother to travel in Europe, his father to pursue a late-life career as a male model. (There's more call for one in Deerfield than you might imagine.)

"It could be argued that it's just as admirable to do something regardless of what it says on a card," says Dusty, whose own card suggests that he's already all the person he'll ever be.

"You could stay exactly where you are or you could throw yourself into the deep unknown," Father Reuben (Damon Gupton) suggests to him. He's a public-school chaplain, a job I am pretty sure does not exist in this country, and something of a barfly.

Dusty and his peers are in some respects still the people they were in high school, with 20 years more baggage. (The current generation of teenagers, less discombobulated by their Morpho readings, seems relatively more mature than their parents.)

Egotistical in inverse proportion to his insecurities, Giorgio (Josh Segarra), who runs the restaurant, had a brief career in professional hockey, feasts on past glories and carries a torch for Cass, which he waves incessantly in Dusty's face.

Beau (Aaron Roman Weiner), a Zamboni driver and social nonentity, is sunk in misery, having lost a wife and a son, whose surviving twin is Jacob (Sammy Fourlas). He is a troubled wise child in a complicated relationship with Trina, his late brother's girlfriend. Beau's card reads "Sheriff," which he'll take to heart.

The tone ranges a bit, from domestic comedy, to farce, to teen drama, to rueful reflection, to wide-eyed wonder, to Wes Anderson exaggeration: Giorgo's restaurant is topped with a giant spaghetti sculpture, with a canal and a gondola inside. An inn ("the number one nautical-based hotel in Deerfield") is made to replicate the experience of being on a cruise.

At times, "The Big Door Prize" feels like something TV writer and producer Bryan Fuller might have cooked up, in a happier mood, more "Pushing Daisies" than "Hannibal."

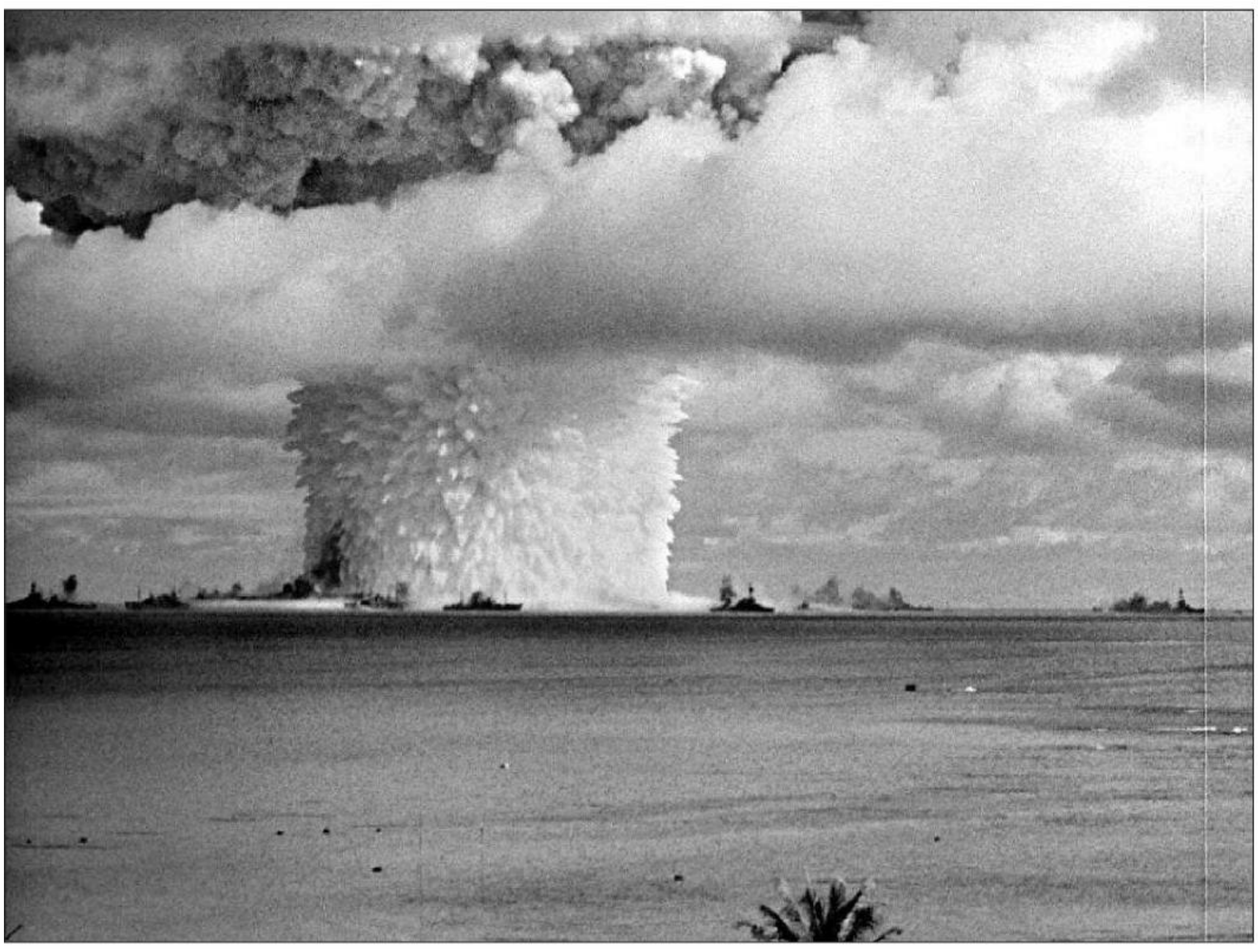
And there is something in its mystical obfuscations and character alterations that brings "Lost" to mind — a small town is a sort of island, dramatically speaking, that some regard as a paradise and others a prison.

The first eight of the 10 episodes are each named for a different character, presenting more sympathetic portraits of people who might at first seem merely difficult, annoying or awful.

It's a familiar way to develop a story, but the result is a narrative more ambling than compelling, compounded by the fact that the season, though it will settle some characters' business and make various philosophical points, ends at a kind of dramatic midpoint. (One might argue, as the series does, that life while you live it is always an unfinished story, but in any case, a second season is reportedly in production.)

Nevertheless, "The Big Door Prize" is easy to like and even embrace. O'Dowd's hangdog comic amiability — I will take any opportunity to recommend his semi-autobiographical "Moone Boy," whose three seasons you can still find streaming on Hulu, in which he plays the imaginary friend of his younger self — makes him an appealing protagonist.

But the whole show is well cast and performed, and even when the action feels overly constructed or declamatory — and there is a rash of declamation toward the season's end — there is something or someone pleasing to latch onto.



UCLA Hammer Museum

BRUCE CONNER'S 1976 film "Crossroads" uses government footage of 1950s nuclear test explosions.

Together for now, at least

[**Hammer,** from E1]

itions and single-artist shows, as well as one biggie. "Together in Time: Selections From the Hammer Contemporary Collection," assembled by director Ann Philbin, chief curator Connie Butler and four members of the curatorial staff, pulls together 73 paintings, sculptures, videos and mixed-media works. All were acquired since 2005, when the museum decided to add contemporary art to its small and uneven trove of European and American works by Rembrandt, John Singer Sargent, Vincent van Gogh and other blue-chip historical artists.

Indeed, the idea of beginning to form a contemporary collection is tied to the updated and expanded building.

An inadequate 1990 structure hastily thrown together in his dying days by the museum's namesake, the late industrialist Armand Hammer, required major fixes. Hammer, who peevishly overturned decades' worth of pledges to donate his corporate-minded art collection to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, where he was a trustee, envisioned a modernized Renaissance villa with upstairs galleries built around a courtyard, suitable for his self-perception as a corporate Medici.

Ugly barely began to describe it. Inhospitable — to art and to audiences — did.

The horizontally striped black-and-white marble façade is part Postmodern architectural pastiche of buildings like the art-filled Duomo in Siena, Italy, and part simplistic foil to the vertically striped panels of white marble and dark windows of the former Occidental Petroleum headquarters to which the museum is awkwardly attached. (Those elements, of course, remain.) The original Hammer, in a weird augury of the recently unveiled Orange County Museum of Art's new facility, opened to the public before the building was finished. Architecturally, it has been playing catch-up ever since.

Philbin's arrival in 1999 led to development of a master plan by architect Michael Maltzan two years later. It has been implemented in modest steps — the addition of a handsome theater here, an elegantly helpful bridge spanning the courtyard there, new administrative offices in the adjacent Occidental tower acquired by UCLA, study-storage for the remarkable (and hitherto underutilized) Grunwald Center for the Graphic Arts, an attractive shop and restaurant (of course) and more. Now, a capacious new entry at the highly trafficked corner of Wilshire and Westwood boulevards, one of the nation's busiest automotive intersections, awaits the eventual opening of a subway stop across the street, planned for an unspecified date before the 2028 Olympics.

A redesigned and welcoming lobby and a former bank office transformed into a gallery are also among the changes, currently housing commissioned immersive installations from Chiharu Shiota and Rita McBride. On the patio adjacent, a monumental Sanford Biggers bronze sculpture of a Zeus-like figure melds African and American forms.

There's a bit more to go, including construction of a path between that lobby and the bank-gallery, in what might be a final construction phase. The contemporary collection, however, is the primary reveal. It's a generally impressive array, shrewdly installed.

One disconcerting sample: Around the corner from a 17-panel Ben Sakoguchi painting is Bruce Conner's half-hour film "Crossroads," a slow-motion montage of government footage of 1950s nuclear test explosions in the Pacific. A shiver goes down your spine when the grainy film's fuzzy fog of contaminated smoke and water envelops a naval ship, all to a haunting synthesizer score by Terry Riley and Patrick Gleeson.

The stark counterpoint is Sakoguchi's "Towers," a series of clear-eyed landscape views of and from the concentration camp watchtowers built between Arkansas and California to imprison American citizens of Japanese descent during World War II. They surround a group picture of inmates at Poston, Ariz., the prison where the artist spent part of his childhood, the discomfiting faces echoing a benign high school graduation picture.

ERIC STAUDENMAIER

THE UCLA Hammer Museum has a new entry at the corner of Wilshire and Westwood boulevards.

Most works have not been seen since the museum acquired them, either through purchase or gift, although some have been featured in earlier Hammer exhibitions. Among the latter is Mike Kelley's 2010 "City 000," a heart-tugging juxtaposition of a glistening model of Kandor, lost mythic birthplace of alien Superman constructed here atop a craggy mountain, and a tiny birdhouse spotlighted on the adjacent wall. The "shining city on a hill" and its neighboring domestic habitat are reached by climbing a gallows stairway.

These works reflect a bedrock principle for building any art museum collection. If an artist is good enough to be presented in an exhibition, especially a solo show, then institutional commitment should also take the next step: a permanent collection acquisition for posterity.

"Together in Time" is therefore a partial record of the Hammer's admirably woke past program, which catapulted a once dreary place into the forefront of American university museums. ("Superfluous, even silly" is how I described the preschool vanity museum when it first opened, its original $96-million price tag roughly the same as what the renovations have now cost.) Memory lane meets the explicit gender and ethnic diversity demanded of museums today, an indication of the Hammer's long-standing commitments.

Among notable works recalling past shows are Llyn Foulkes' grim mixed-media painting of a blood-soaked U.S. military officer with a mysterious envelope lashed to his forehead; Jimmie Durham's wood sculpture fusing a Native American totem with a Christian cross; an early painting of alien life forms by Eva Hesse, who would soon gain renown as a sculptor; Christina Quarles' torqued abstraction of a reclining nude; and a portrait of a young man in the pattern-bedecked guise of Aztec fertility goddess Chalchiuhtlicue, painted on a slab of handmade adobe by rafa esparza. There are many more.

The earliest object is an exquisite 1951 painting by the late Lee Mullican, once a UCLA professor, its knife-edge rays of shimmery golden light emerging from a central core to summon the birth of new worlds in the era's backwash of hydrogen bombs and Holocaust. Among the more recent is the imposing 2019 portrait "Hudson Burk 1" by Ghanaian artist Amoako Boafo, with a silhouetted torso and finger-painted face a legacy of Modern artists from Egon Schiele to Barkley L. Hendricks.

One result of the close relationship between the Hammer's permanent collection and its program is that almost two-thirds of what's on view dates from the 21st century. It's very much a "new millennium" collection. The second largest contingent — 11 works — is from the 1970s, most by L.A. artists and made in the immediate aftermath of the city's first efflorescence as a significant center for new art production.

Chris Burden's drawing is an annotation of a New York Times review of his performance art, including having himself shot in the arm, offering a witty correction of various factual errors plus a lone pat on the back for one insight. Eleanor Antin, invited to contribute Conceptual work to a publication if she would agree to pay $8 per page, lists what else she could buy for the reproduction fee: two hours of housecleaning, cab fare for trips to her kid's school or a month's worth of marijuana. (Decisions, decisions.) Allen Ruppersberg collected dozens of patron receipts from the short-lived diner he opened near MacArthur Park in 1969, where small assemblage sculptures were on the menu.

All three works put art's social dimensions front and center, as does Roland Reiss' room-size "The Castle of Perseverance." The sofa, side tables, lamps and other furnishings of an ordinary domestic living room, built from soulless sheets of brown particle board as an inert Minimalist still life, speaks eloquently of contradictions within the pop-heavy experience of L.A. — the first great suburban metropolis.

The "Together in Time" title derives from a piece by Mexican artist Mario García Torres, included in a rotating presentation of the collection's video art. Yet the show's primary stumble is its somewhat slight representation of Latino artists. The relatively few examples might expand when the show changes in June. (In a gallery currently housing a recent acquisition of Chinese camera work, "Ecstatic" will add collection drawings and sculptures.) For a city with a near majority Latino population — and a powerful history — more is needed.

Which brings us to a larger paradox. The current shows, enlarging on small samplers in years past, represent just the tip of what is now a roughly 4,000-piece Hammer iceberg. The collection will continue to grow. Gallery space has expanded from just 16,600 square feet in 1990 to 26,600 square feet today, but none is dedicated to permanent display of those contemporary holdings. Even more is needed, but there's no place to build it.

Having adequate permanent galleries for permanent collections seems to be an elusive dream for visitors to L.A. art museums. Downtown, the Museum of Contemporary Art's stellar collection outgrew its space long ago. In mid-Wilshire, LACMA may be the only museum in recorded history to tear down existing permanent collection galleries to replace them with less space, not more. In August, the Hammer's temporary contemporary collection goes back into deep storage. "Together in Time" looks great, but you'll need to get there in time to see it.

'Together in Time'

Where: UCLA Hammer Museum, 10899 Wilshire Blvd., Westwood

When: Through Aug. 20. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays-Sundays; closed Mondays

Admission: Free

Info: *hammer.ucla.edu*, (310) 443-7000

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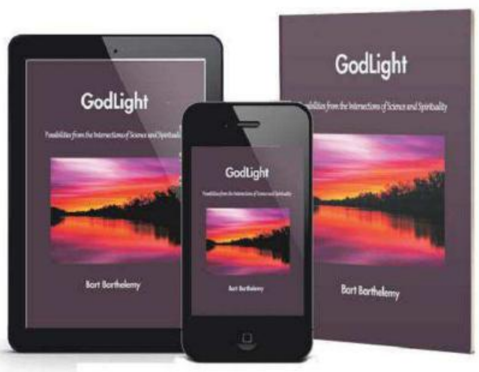

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BY DR. BART BARTHELEMY

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Even though there are still great mysteries remaining to be studied and understood in both science and spirituality, what seems clear is that there appears to be many connections and overlap between these two disciplines.
– Dr. Bart Barthelemy

COMICS

SUDOKU

Level: Moderate

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9				5				
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	8		7		6			
	4				3		7	

Level: Gentle

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			1		
		5			4
2			5		3
		2			
	3				6

9	8	5	1	6	2	4	3	7
2	1	7	5	4	3	9	8	6
3	6	4	8	7	9	5	2	1
5	4	3	6	1	7	2	9	8
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4	3	6	2	8	5	1	7	9

4	2	6	1	5	3
3	1	5	2	4	6
5	6	3	4	2	1
2	4	1	6	3	5
1	5	4	3	6	2
6	3	2	5	1	4

3/29/23

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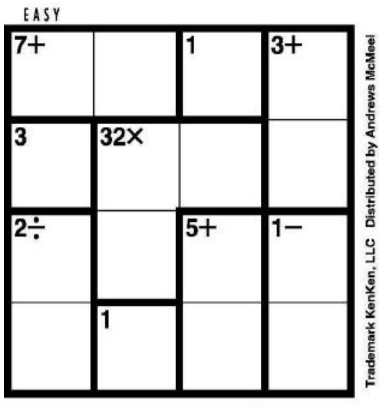
Solutions to Tuesday's puzzles

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 or 2-by-3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 (or 1 to 6 for the smaller grid). For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit *www.sudoku.org.uk*.

KENKEN

Every box will contain a number; numbers depend on the size of the grid. For a 6x6 puzzle, use Nos. 1-6. Do not repeat a number in any row or column. The numbers in each heavily outlined set of squares must combine to produce the target number found in the top left corner of the cage using the mathematical operation indicated. A number can be repeated within a cage as long as it is not in the same row or column.

EASY



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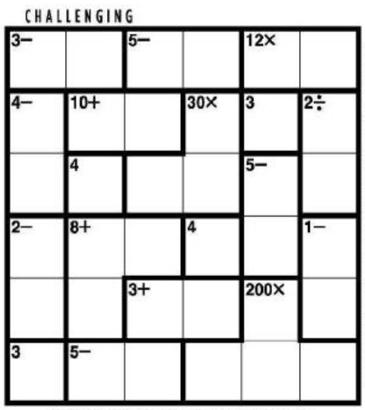
CHALLENGING



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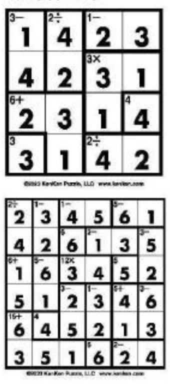
PREVIOUS ANSWERS



3/29/23

HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis

Aries (March 21-April 19): People expect you to anticipate their needs, and amazingly, you do.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): What's important about detailed work is knowing how granular to get. A sprinkle goes a long way.

Gemini (May 21-June 21): When you compare yourself to others, it will seem like you got in on the game too late, but it's usually not the case.

Cancer (June 22-July 22): Some come off as cool because they're very comfortable in a situation, and some seem cool but are just self-centered, oblivious and incurious. Go for warmth.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): You can feel tremendous empathy for those who are not like you. You'll celebrate others' successes and appreciate efforts and talents you don't fully understand.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): If you don't know what to say, don't worry because you don't need to. You're better off leaving a silence and letting the other person, or life itself, lead the way.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): Regret is a rejection of the person you were and the choices you made — a rather unkind way to treat your former self.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): Don't argue with someone who needs to be right. Let them be right and move on to work and play with people of flexible mind and less ego.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): While you may admire a person, your strong feelings stem from not only what you know of them but what they represent to you.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Invite a person into your world one experience at a time. Too much too soon would ruin the journey. Getting to know you is more like fine dining than fast food.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Even if you don't know what you're doing, execute tasks as though you do. You'll figure it out en route.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): Celebrate your success. Even the smallest win should be acknowledged; doing so creates hope, momentum and an attitude of confidence and competence.

Today's birthday (March 29): Welcome to your year of auspicious advantages, which you'll play to eliminate, minimize or flip your disadvantages. You make the most of things, so life gives you the premium version to see what heights you can soar to. More highlights: a thrilling win; conquering a fear. You'll become brave and attractive, gaining fans. Scorpio and Aquarius adore you. Lucky numbers: 14, 30, 1, 28, 17.

Mathis writes her column for Creators Syndicate Inc. The horoscope should be read for entertainment.

CROSSWORD

Edited By Patti Varol and Joyce Nichols Lewis
By Chase Dittrich and Jeff Chen

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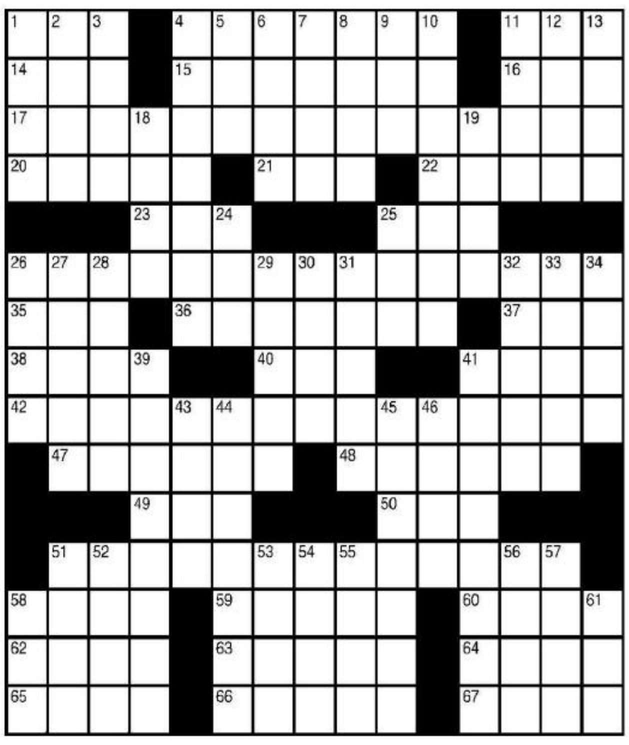


ACROSS
1 Wet dirt
4 Biblical saying
11 Fave pal
14 Sushi-grade tuna
15 Pen with bright ink
16 Hoppy brew
17 Like an amazing and fortuitous circumstance that can't possibly exist, despite an initial promising appearance [67-Across: Suspiciously awesome]
20 Pulsate
21 Junior
22 Gave a leg up to
23 Actress Vardalos
25 24/7 cash source
26 Metaphor for the legal system that implies a criminal cannot hide or escape from that system's vast resources and unparalleled authority [67-Across: Police jurisdiction]
35 Unlock, poetically
36 Director Kubrick
37 Wall St. debut
38 Plot portion
40 Feel bad about
41 Successor
42 Was as successful and enjoyable as early conjecture and predictions suggested it would be [67-Across: Met expectations]
47 Mogul
48 South Seas wrap
49 WC
50 "i" topper
51 Declaration from a person playing poker in a situation where the opponents think they have it in the bag [67-Across: "I win!"]
58 Game show creator Griffin
59 Pesto herb
60 Broad valley
62 Brink
63 Joint above a foot
64 Bailiwick
65 WCs
66 Stands
67 "I lost interest" acronym spelled out by the starts of four answers in this puzzle

DOWN
1 Actor Damon
2 "Yikes!"
3 Designer Christian
4 Fears
5 Kia sedan
6 Cutlass sedan, e.g.
7 Corleone patriarch
8 Henry VI's school
9 Hoops stat
10 Whispery in tone
11 Poet
12 Fireplace shaft
13 Farm store bagful
18 Large flat bell
19 Proctor's shout
24 Graffiti, e.g.
25 Dined
26 Laundry batch
27 Footnote kin of ibid.
28 Geeky
29 Cheech of Cheech & Chong
30 Obligation
31 Canine pests
32 Occupy, as a bed
33 Copying
34 Saint-John's-__: herbal remedy
39 Closed-off districts
41 Derided from the stands
43 Pond critter
44 Option for soap or ice cream
45 Ping-Pong and canoeing needs
46 Boat's front
51 Ctrl+Y action
52 "By that logic ... "
53 __-pedi
54 Requests
55 Giza's river
56 __ Grey tea
57 Implored
58 Country singer Tillis
61 Musician's gift

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

W	I	F	I	■	A	B	I	D	E	D	■	M	A	S
P	A	L	S	■	V	O	T	E	N	O	■	R	N	A
A	N	A	L	O	G	W	A	T	C	H	■	P	I	T
■	■	T	A	B	■	■	L	A	O	■	S	I	M	I
C	H	I	N	E	S	E	■	C	R	O	W	B	A	R
C	A	R	D	S	O	N	T	H	E	T	A	B	L	E
C	H	O	■	E	D	D	Y	■	S	T	Y	■	■	■
P	A	N	T	■	■	S	P	A	■	■	S	O	O	N
■	■	■	U	F	C	■	E	L	M	S	■	P	R	Y
R	O	U	N	D	O	F	A	P	P	L	A	U	S	E
A	D	M	I	R	A	L	■	S	H	A	L	L	O	T
N	A	P	S	■	C	O	W	■	■	S	T	E	■	■
T	M	I	■	S	H	O	W	O	F	H	A	N	D	S
E	A	R	■	A	E	R	I	A	L	■	R	C	A	S
D	E	E	■	O	S	S	I	F	Y	■	S	E	N	T

3/29/23

BRIDGE

By Frank Stewart

The Soloway Knockout Teams, the Fall NABC's major event, saw a stirring victory for a four-handed nonsponsored team. Simon Cope, Ishmael Delmonte, Finn Kolesnik and Kevin Rosenberg (the latter two barely out of junior ranks) beat Paul Street in the final.

Cope had trailed by 46 IMPs in their semifinal against Marty Fleisher but cut the margin to 13 with three deals left. In today's deal, North-South for Fleisher played at 3NT, plus 460.

With Delmonte-Kolesnik North-South for Cope, North's bid of two hearts showed either hearts or a strong balanced hand. When South's two spades asked North to clarify, West inserted a questionable lead-directing double. North passed, implying balanced pattern, and South suggested playing at two spades redoubled!

West could have held South to one overtrick, but after he led the ace and a low trump, Kolesnik took 10 tricks for the rare score of plus 1040, slicing the Cope deficit to 2 IMPs.

You hold: ♠ A J 8 7 4 ♥ 10 2 ♦ 9 7 4 ♣ J 7 4. Your partner opens one club, you respond one spade and he bids two hearts. The opponents pass. What do you say?

Answer: Your partner has "reversed" and shows a strong hand — for some, enough strength to commit to game. He promises longer clubs than hearts. Bid three clubs and await his next bid. In some styles, you would be obliged to rebid two spades to show your five-card suit.

South dealer
E-W vulnerable

NORTH
♠ K 10
♥ A 8
♦ A K Q 10
♣ A K Q 9 3

WEST
♠ A J 8 7 4
♥ 10 2
♦ 9 7 4
♣ J 7 4

EAST
♠ 5 2
♥ K J 6 5 3
♦ J 8 5 3 2
♣ 8

SOUTH
♠ Q 9 6 3
♥ Q 9 7 4
♦ 6
♣ 10 6 5 2

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Pass	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Dbl	Pass	Pass
Redbl	All Pass		

Opening lead — ♠ A

Tribune Content Agency

ASK AMY

Mother-in-law is difficult

Dear Amy: I am in my first year of marriage, trying to navigate a tricky in-law situation.

My mother-in-law does a lot of taking and not a lot of giving. This dynamic is increasing at a fast pace.

Not only does she ask for my help constantly, but she also makes everything extremely complicated and frustrating for everyone involved. She will not tolerate being told no. She becomes passive-aggressive and at times has been mean enough to make me cry.

In the last month I have (involuntarily) assisted her in planning a surprise birthday party for a woman I have never met. My husband and our toddler son even traveled four hours to attend the party because she would not take no for an answer.

Now she has asked that I help her make a scrapbook for this same stranger, which would involve hours of work.

She never offers to help with our son, even though she lives five minutes away, is retired and in good health.

I have a lot on my plate. I get no privacy and no alone time with my husband.

She always claims to be so busy, while I'm just down the road pulling my hair out!

Daughter-in-Law in Training

Dear Daughter-in-Law: You are going to need to establish very firm boundaries with your mother-in-law, basically training her (and yourself) in a new way of relating and communicating.

You should have a meeting with your husband to discuss your concerns and intentions. Keep in mind, always, that she is his mother and that his attachment to her is one that you should respect. But unless this dynamic changes, it will negatively affect your marriage.

Let him know that you need to reduce your own frustration and anger when you feel pressured to do her bidding. This should start with you learning to say "no."

Do your best to be frank and polite — even if she isn't.

When you have asked her to help you out, she declines! Let her teach you by example: "I'm going to say no. I have a lot on my plate."

Rehearse responses and train yourself to stay calm. Do not lay on layers of excuses or details. If you need a date night, you should hire a babysitter.

Susan Forward has called this type of mother-in-law "the Engulfer." You might benefit from reading her book, "Toxic In-Laws: Loving Strategies for Protecting Your Marriage."

Dear Amy: I'm a woman in my mid-30s living in a major metropolitan area.

My problem is that I am not social media-savvy and don't wish to be, but I feel I'm missing out on many social opportunities as a result.

I view sharing even happy news over social media as attention-seeking. I'd rather have old-fashioned phone calls or get-togethers with friends to keep each other in the loop about our lives.

But most people I know use Instagram, etc., and I'm usually the last to know what's going on in their lives.

Should I just bite the bullet and start using these platforms, even though I find it daunting, or should I stick to my principles?

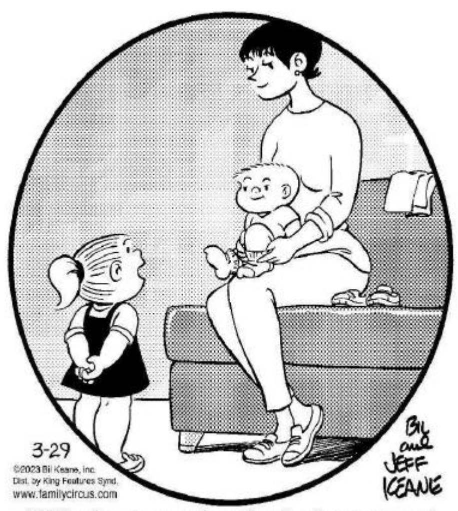
Old-Fashioned

Dear Old-Fashioned: You seem to believe that being on social media necessitates that you share your own news. That is not the case.

You can have a presence on Instagram, follow your friends' accounts and see their posts without sharing your own. You can follow up with phone calls and in-person meetings without feeling that you're out of the loop.

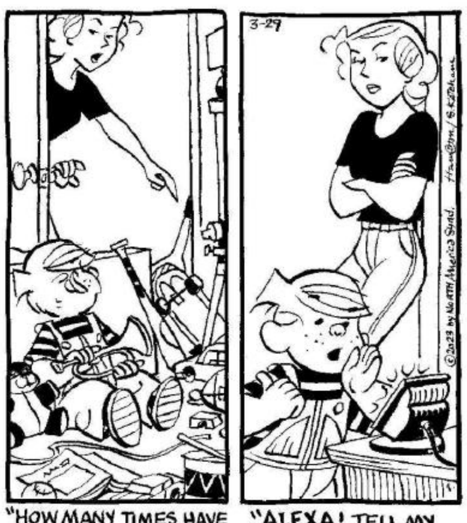
Email questions to Amy Dickinson at *askamy@amydickinson.com.*

FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



"Who's gonna be the baby around here when PJ's finished?"

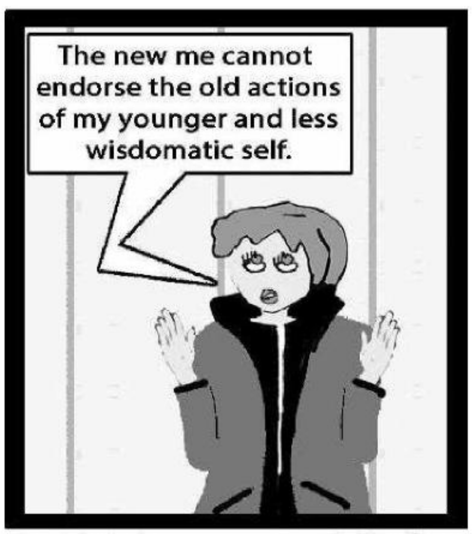
DENNIS THE MENACE By Hank Ketcham



"HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU TO CLEAN UP THIS ROOM?"

"ALEXA! TELL MY MOM HOW MANY!"

REPLY ALL LITE By Donna Lewis


The new me cannot endorse the old actions of my younger and less wisdomatic self.

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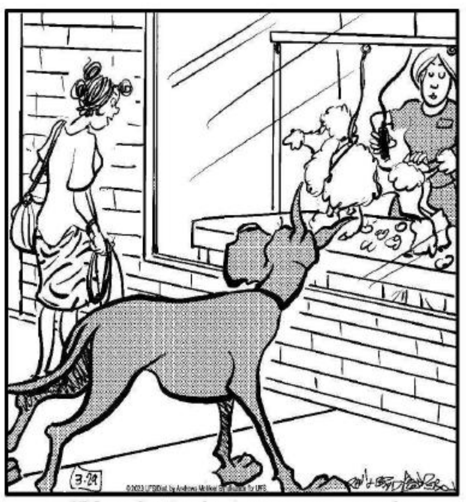
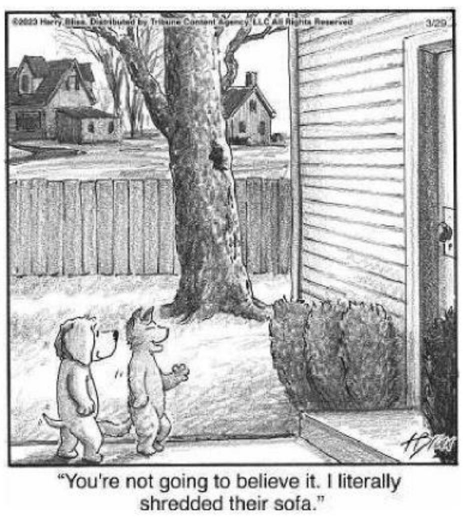
www.replyallcomic.com
3-29

MARMADUKE By Brad & Paul Anderson



"Yes, but what you save us in trimming, you more than make up for in dog food."

BLISS By Harry Bliss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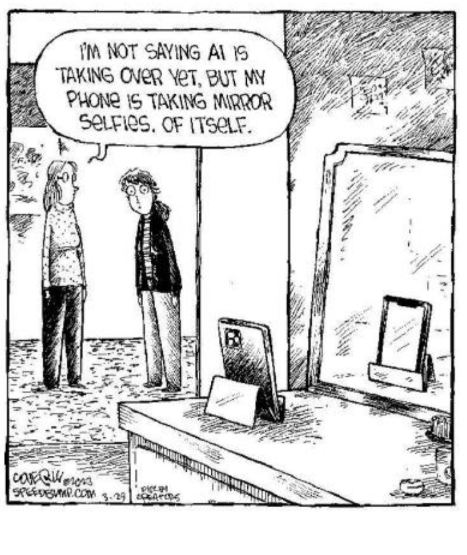
3/29

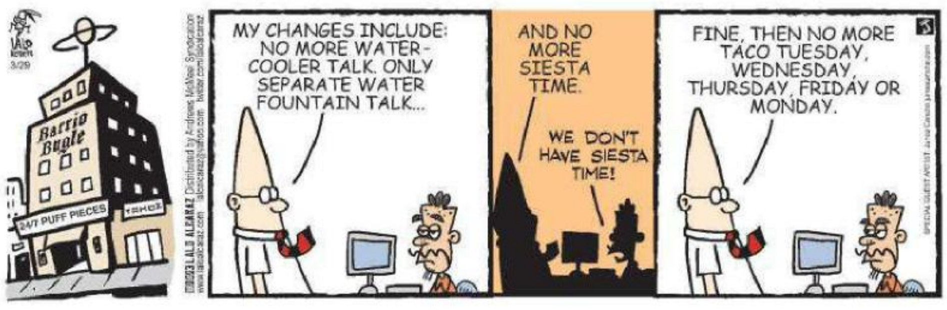
"You're not going to believe it. I literally shredded their sofa."

SPEED BUMP By Dave Coverly

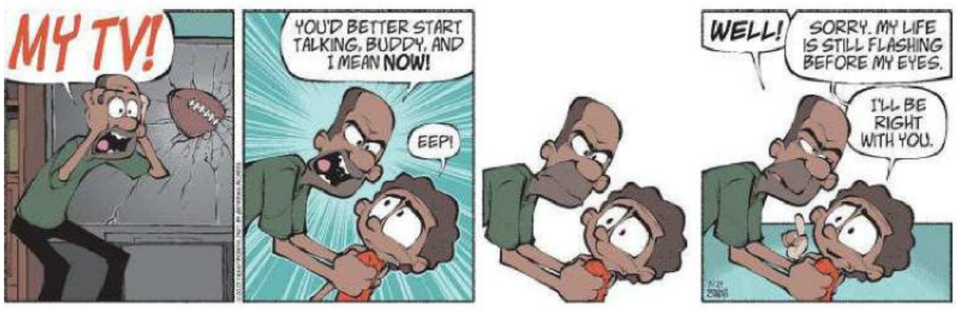

I'M NOT SAYING AI IS TAKING OVER YET, BUT MY PHONE IS TAKING MIRROR SELFIES. OF ITSELF.
COVERLY ©2023
SPEEDBUMP.COM 3-29

COMICS

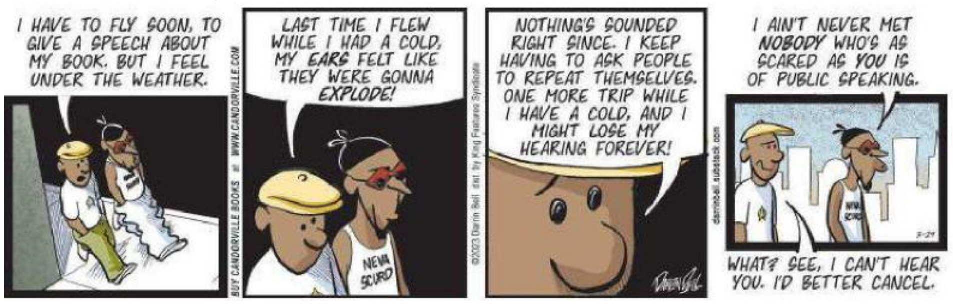
LA CUCARACHA By Lalo Alcaraz


Barrio Bugle
24/7 PUFF PIECES
3/29
MY CHANGES INCLUDE: NO MORE WATER-COOLER TALK. ONLY SEPARATE WATER FOUNTAIN TALK...
AND NO MORE SIESTA TIME.
WE DON'T HAVE SIESTA TIME!
FINE, THEN NO MORE TACO TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY OR MONDAY.
©2023 LALO ALCARAZ Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication
SPECIAL GUEST ARTIST

CRABGRASS By Tauhid Bondia


MY TV!
YOU'D BETTER START TALKING, BUDDY, AND I MEAN NOW!
EEP!
WELL!
SORRY. MY LIFE IS STILL FLASHING BEFORE MY EYES.
I'LL BE RIGHT WITH YOU.

CANDORVILLE By Darrin Bell


I HAVE TO FLY SOON, TO GIVE A SPEECH ABOUT MY BOOK. BUT I FEEL UNDER THE WEATHER.
LAST TIME I FLEW WHILE I HAD A COLD, MY EARS FELT LIKE THEY WERE GONNA EXPLODE!
NEVA SCURD
NOTHING'S SOUNDED RIGHT SINCE. I KEEP HAVING TO ASK PEOPLE TO REPEAT THEMSELVES. ONE MORE TRIP WHILE I HAVE A COLD, AND I MIGHT LOSE MY HEARING FOREVER!
I AIN'T NEVER MET NOBODY WHO'S AS SCARED AS YOU IS OF PUBLIC SPEAKING.
WHAT? SEE, I CAN'T HEAR YOU. I'D BETTER CANCEL.
BUY CANDORVILLE BOOKS @ WWW.CANDORVILLE.COM
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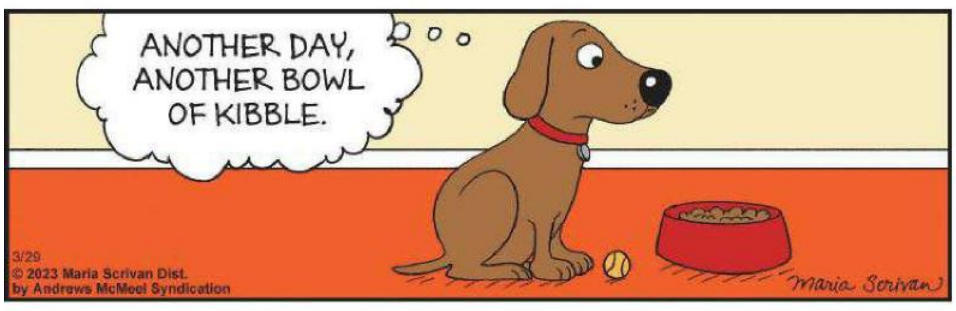
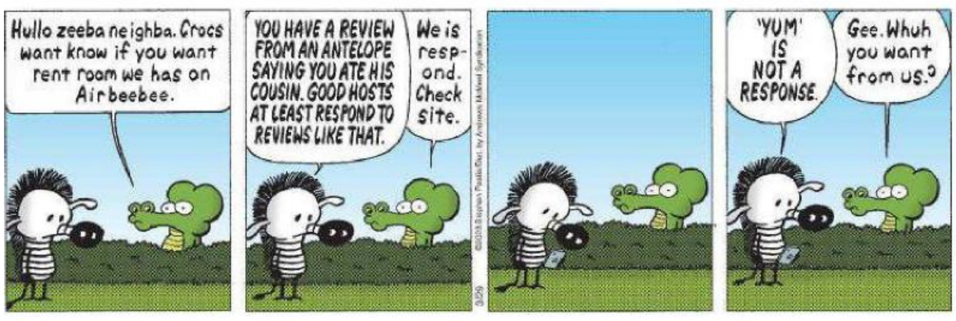
darrinbell.substack.com

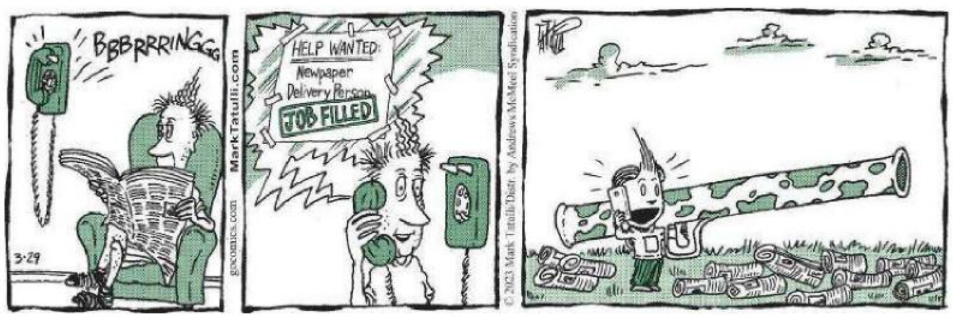
HALF FULL By Maria Scrivan


ANOTHER DAY, ANOTHER BOWL OF KIBBLE.
3/29
© 2023 Maria Scrivan Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication
Maria Scrivan

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE By Stephan Pastis


Hullo zeeba neighba. Crocs want know if you want rent room we has on Airbeebee.
YOU HAVE A REVIEW FROM AN ANTELOPE SAYING YOU ATE HIS COUSIN. GOOD HOSTS AT LEAST RESPOND TO REVIEWS LIKE THAT.
We is resp-ond. Check site.
'YUM' IS NOT A RESPONSE.
Gee. Whuh you want from us.?

LIO By Mark Tatulli


BBBRRRINGGG
3-29
MarkTatulli.com
gocomics.com
HELP WANTED:
Newspaper Delivery Person
JOB FILLED
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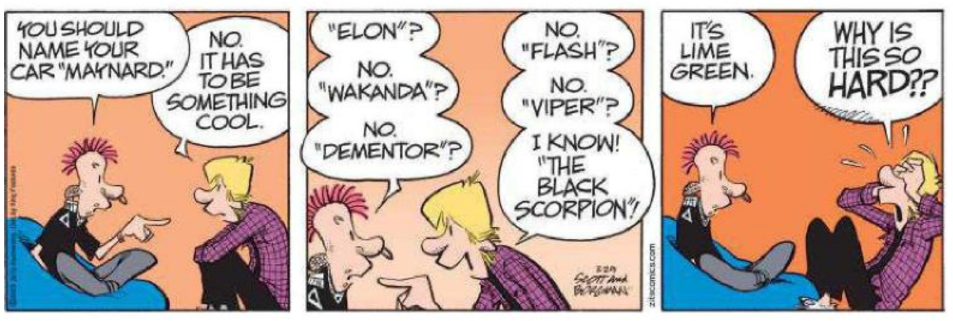
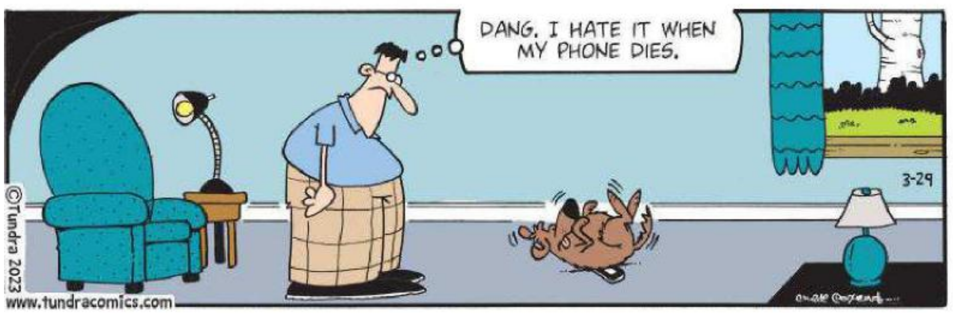
ZITS By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman


YOU SHOULD NAME YOUR CAR "MAYNARD."
NO. IT HAS TO BE SOMETHING COOL.
"ELON"?
NO. "WAKANDA"?
NO. "DEMENTOR"?
NO. "FLASH"?
NO. "VIPER"?
I KNOW! "THE BLACK SCORPION"!
3-29 SCOTT AND BORGMAN
zitscomics.com
IT'S LIME GREEN.
WHY IS THIS SO HARD??

TUNDRA By Chad Carpenter


DANG. I HATE IT WHEN MY PHONE DIES.
3-29
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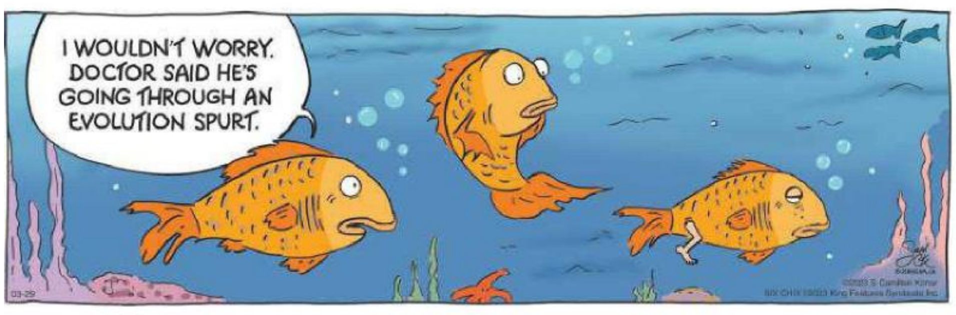
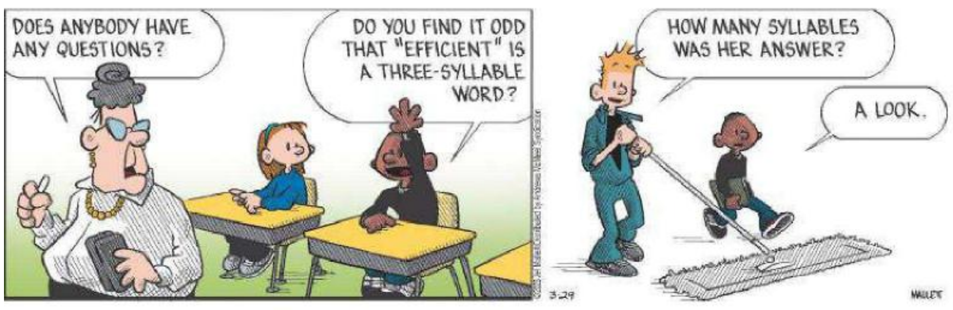
www.tundracomics.com

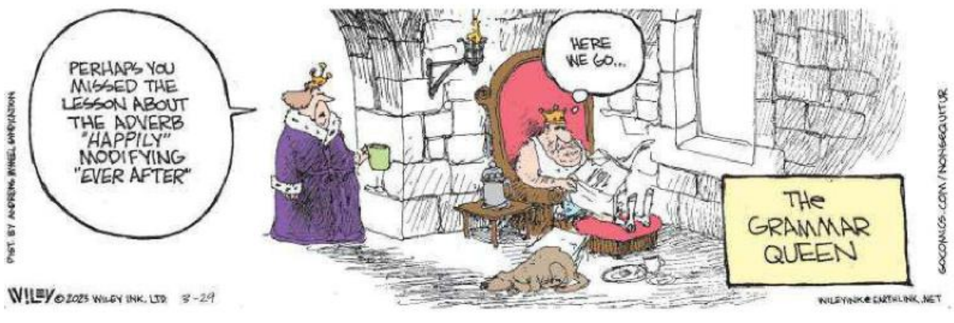
SIX CHIX By Susan Camilleri Konar


I WOULDN'T WORRY. DOCTOR SAID HE'S GOING THROUGH AN EVOLUTION SPURT.
03-29

FRAZZ By Jef Mallett


DOES ANYBODY HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?
DO YOU FIND IT ODD THAT "EFFICIENT" IS A THREE-SYLLABLE WORD?
HOW MANY SYLLABLES WAS HER ANSWER?
A LOOK.
3-29
MALLETT

NON SEQUITUR By Wiley


PERHAPS YOU MISSED THE LESSON ABOUT THE ADVERB "HAPPILY" MODIFYING "EVER AFTER"
HERE WE GO...
THE GRAMMAR QUEEN
WILEY ©2023 WILEY INK, LTD 3-29
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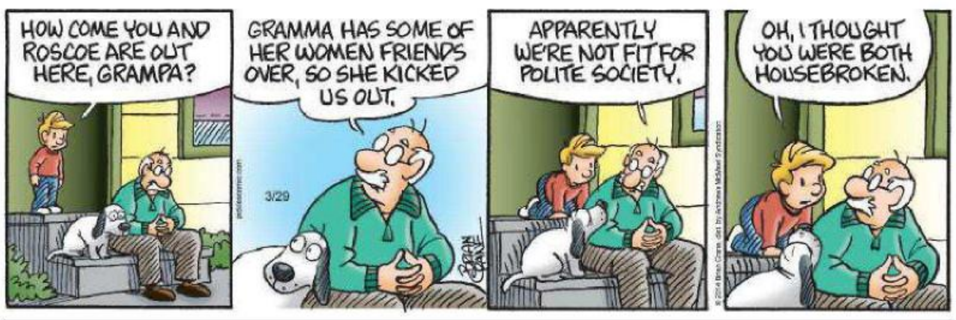
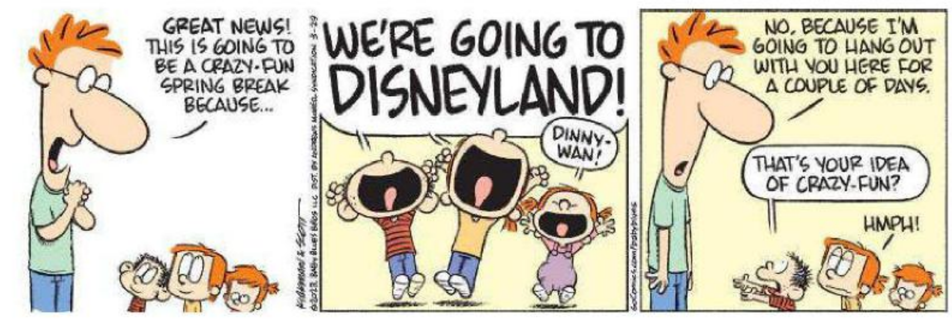
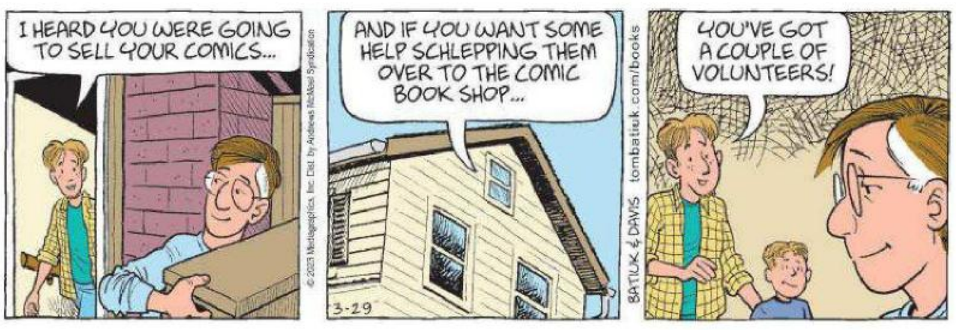
PICKLES By Brian Crane


HOW COME YOU AND ROSCOE ARE OUT HERE, GRAMPA?
GRAMMA HAS SOME OF HER WOMEN FRIENDS OVER, SO SHE KICKED US OUT.
3/29
APPARENTLY WE'RE NOT FIT FOR POLITE SOCIETY.
OH, I THOUGHT YOU WERE BOTH HOUSEBROKEN.

BABY BLUES By Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman


GREAT NEWS! THIS IS GOING TO BE A CRAZY-FUN SPRING BREAK BECAUSE...
WE'RE GOING TO DISNEYLAND!
DINNY-WAN!
NO, BECAUSE I'M GOING TO HANG OUT WITH YOU HERE FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS.
THAT'S YOUR IDEA OF CRAZY-FUN?
HMPH!

CRANKSHAFT By Tom Batiuk & Chuck Ayers


I HEARD YOU WERE GOING TO SELL YOUR COMICS...
AND IF YOU WANT SOME HELP SCHLEPPING THEM OVER TO THE COMIC BOOK SHOP...
3-29
YOU'VE GOT A COUPLE OF VOLUNTEERS!
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books
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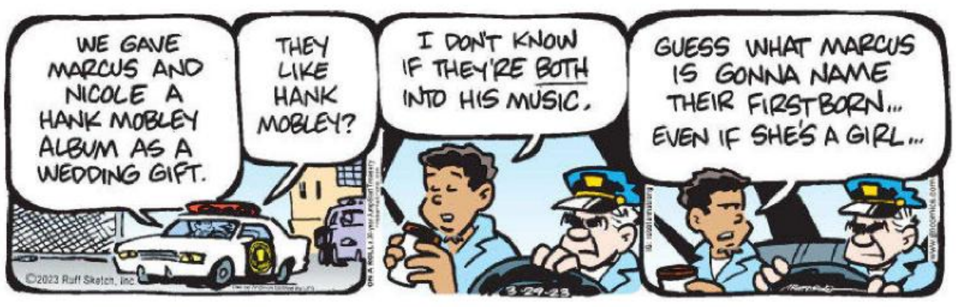
JUMP START By Robb Armstrong


WE GAVE MARCUS AND NICOLE A HANK MOBLEY ALBUM AS A WEDDING GIFT.
THEY LIKE HANK MOBLEY?
I DON'T KNOW IF THEY'RE BOTH INTO HIS MUSIC.
GUESS WHAT MARCUS IS GONNA NAME THEIR FIRSTBORN... EVEN IF SHE'S A GIRL...
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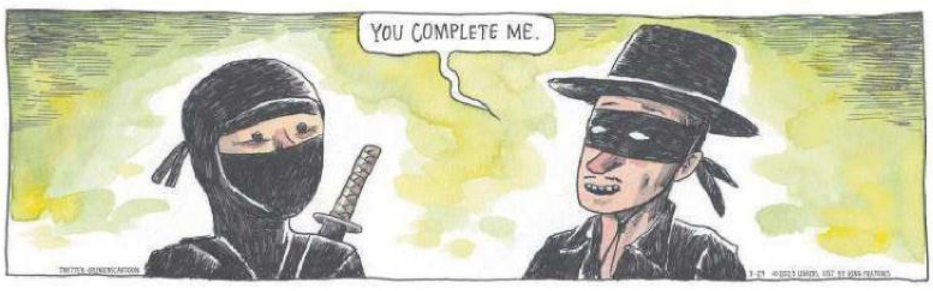
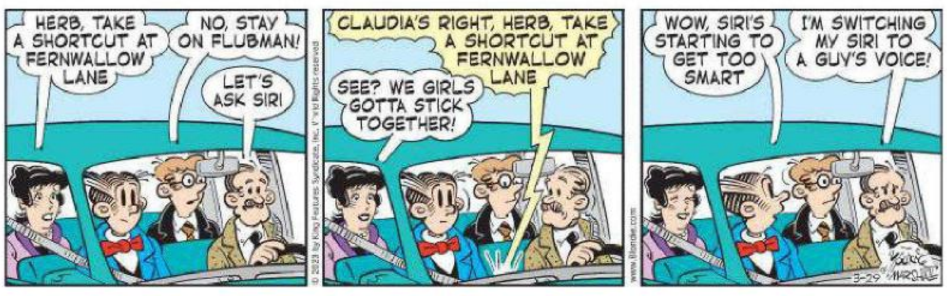
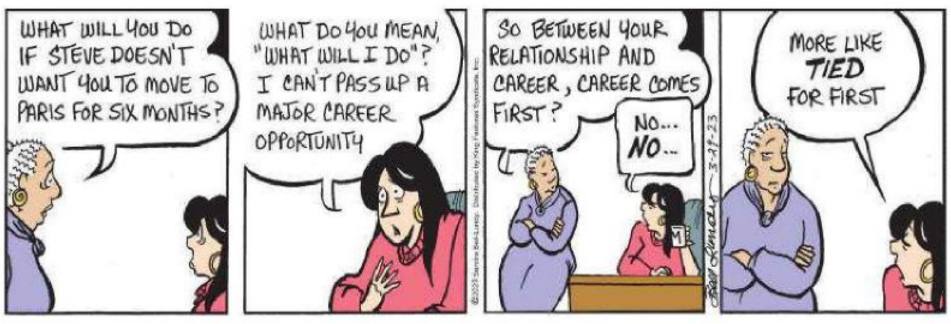
MACANUDO By Liniers


YOU COMPLETE ME.

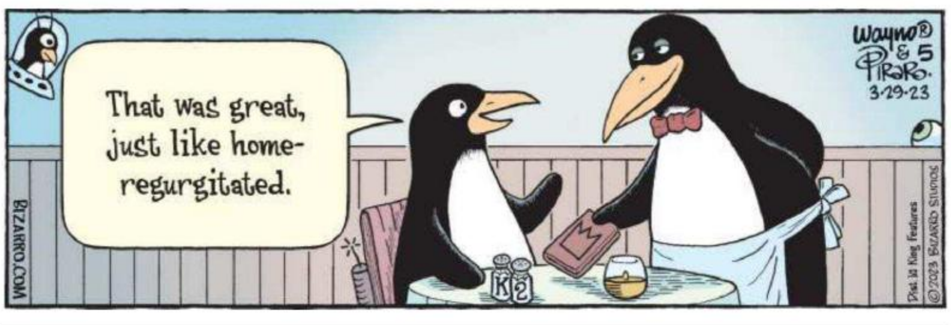
BLONDIE By Dean Young & John Marshall


HERB, TAKE A SHORTCUT AT FERNWALLOW LANE
NO, STAY ON FLUBMAN!
LET'S ASK SIRI
CLAUDIA'S RIGHT, HERB, TAKE A SHORTCUT AT FERNWALLOW LANE
SEE? WE GIRLS GOTTA STICK TOGETHER!
WOW, SIRI'S STARTING TO GET TOO SMART
I'M SWITCHING MY SIRI TO A GUY'S VOICE!
www.Blondie.com
3-29 YOUNG MARSHALL

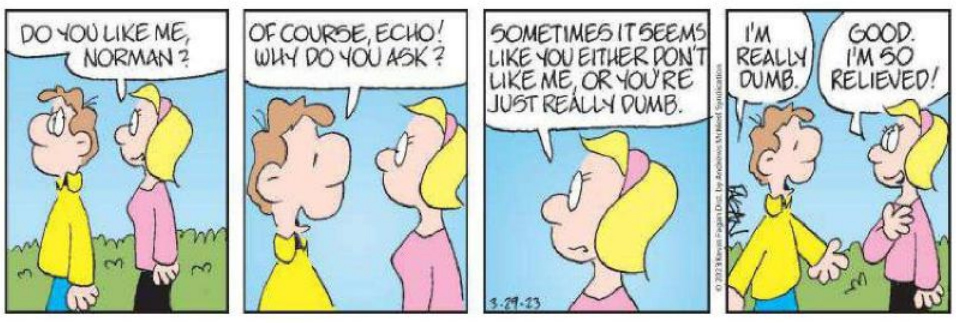
BETWEEN FRIENDS By Sandra Bell-Lundy


WHAT WILL YOU DO IF STEVE DOESN'T WANT YOU TO MOVE TO PARIS FOR SIX MONTHS?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "WHAT WILL I DO"? I CAN'T PASS UP A MAJOR CAREER OPPORTUNITY
SO BETWEEN YOUR RELATIONSHIP AND CAREER, CAREER COMES FIRST?
NO... NO...
3-29-23
MORE LIKE TIED FOR FIRST

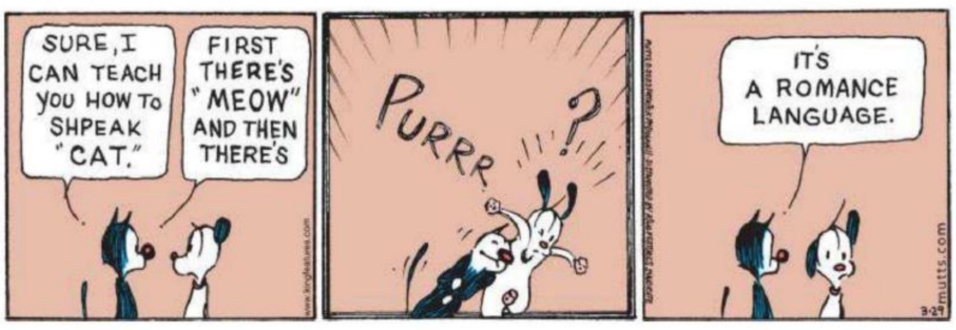
BIZARRO By Wayno and Piraro


That was great, just like home-regurgitated.
Wayno® & 5 Piraro. 3-29-23
BIZARRO.COM
Dist. by King Features
©2023 BIZARRO STUDIOS

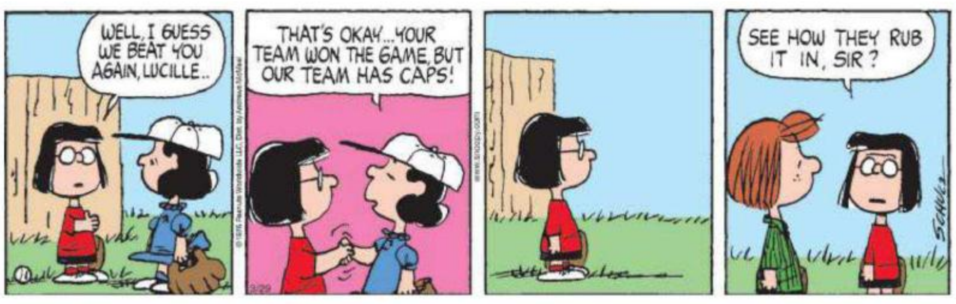
DRABBLE By Kevin Fagan


DO YOU LIKE ME, NORMAN?
OF COURSE, ECHO! WHY DO YOU ASK?
SOMETIMES IT SEEMS LIKE YOU EITHER DON'T LIKE ME, OR YOU'RE JUST REALLY DUMB.
3-29-23
I'M REALLY DUMB.
GOOD. I'M SO RELIEVED!

MUTTS By Patrick McDonnell


SURE, I CAN TEACH YOU HOW TO SHPEAK "CAT."
FIRST THERE'S "MEOW" AND THEN THERE'S
PURRR
?
IT'S A ROMANCE LANGUAGE.
mutts.com 3-29

PEANUTS By Charles M. Schulz


WELL, I GUESS WE BEAT YOU AGAIN, LUCILLE..
THAT'S OKAY...YOUR TEAM WON THE GAME, BUT OUR TEAM HAS CAPS!
SEE HOW THEY RUB IT IN, SIR?
SCHULZ

Los Angeles Times
FESTIVAL OF BOOKS

APRIL 22-23, 2023 | UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

AUTHORS YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS

MARIO AGUILAR
Artist & Comedian
Saturday, April 22

NICOLE CHUNG
Author of
"A Living Remedy: A Memoir"
Saturday, April 22

SAEED JONES
Author of
"Alive at the End of the World"
Sunday, April 23

IDINA MENZEL & CARA MENTZEL
Authors of
"Loud Mouse"
Sunday, April 23

JORDAN MOBLO
Jordy's Book Club
Saturday, April 22

TAMERA MOWRY-HOUSLEY
Author of
"You Should Sit Down for This"
Sunday, April 23

MARGO PRICE
Author of
"Maybe We'll Make It:
A Memoir"
Sunday, April 23

ANGIE THOMAS
Author of "Nic Blake
and the Remarkables:
The Manifestor Prophecy"
and "The Hate U Give"
Sunday, April 23

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Advertising Supplement to the Los Angeles Times
Wednesday, March 29, 2023

International Daily

Shandong Tourism Development Conference opens in Qingdao

QINGDAO -- The 2023 Shandong Tourism Development Conference was held in Qingdao from March 26 to 27.

Initiated in 2020, the Shandong Tourism Development Conference is designed to be a high-level and distinctive culture and tourism event to continuously enhance Shandong's international and domestic appeal.

The conference is part of Shandong's efforts to inject strong vitality into the province's tourism industry and promote the high-quality development of its cultural sector.

Shandong is an important cradle of Chinese civilization and the birthplace of Confucian culture. It is also home to rich and diverse tourism and cultural resources.

"The conference will help boost the confidence of the cultural tourism market and strengthen new drivers for the high-quality development of the cultural tourism industry across Shandong," said Sui Bangru, deputy director of the Qingdao Municipal Culture and Tourism Bureau.

Hosting the conference in Qingdao is a rare opportunity to fully display Qingdao's image and enhance its reputation, Sui added.

Taoist mountain sees rapid tourism recovery in first 2 months

SHIYAN -- Tourism recovers fast at Mount Wudang, one of China's four sacred Taoist mountains, in the first two months of the year after China downgraded its COVID-19 policy in early January.

The number of tourists capped at 200,000 a day in the scenic area. Just in the first two months, Wudang already neared its full capacity, receiving 1.1 million visitors drawn by the views, the history and the Taoist culture.

The scenic spot in Shiyan City of central China's Hubei Province is again seeing crowds trailing up steep steps, taking in the impressive natural views here.

But beyond that, many of them are in fact pilgrims of Taoism, one of China's oldest religions, with a philosophical way of looking at life still much relevant today.

"Tao" in Chinese means path or the way of the universe in the Taoist context. The underpinning idea is that all living things exist in harmony, everything is connected through energy or "qi", and nothing makes sense by itself.

As far as personal life is concerned, Taoism believes that while proactively improving oneself, one should cultivate one's self to rise above bodily needs and base desires, finding harmony with the world, and ultimately achieving spiritual immortality, which could offer a solution to find inner peace for those who are tired of the life in the fast lane of modern society.

"Taoism presupposes continuous self-improvement, virtue and responsibility as within the laws of nature. First there is self-improvement, virtue and responsibility, and then there can be tranquility and non-action. So Taoism is not simply about being passive or inactive. It is in fact proactive, but teaches us not to compete for power, for profit, not to steal credit," said Yang Lizhi, professor of the School of Humanities under Hubei University of Automotive Technology.

For a long time, Mount Wudang has been a haven for Taoists. Some of these buildings can be traced back to the 7th century. But it was about 600 years ago when the Ming Dynasty emperor Zhu Di set about expanding the complex of palaces and temples, and the mountain reached its apex as a Taoist mecca.

Largest beach market in Asia welcomes Thai merchants to island province of Hainan

HAIKOU -- An expansive beach market project that is expected to become one of the largest of its kind in Asia attracted a gathering of international investors and merchants for a signing ceremony in south China's Hainan province on Sunday.

The Baishamen Beach Market, currently under construction in the coastal Haikou City, is expected to boost trade and strengthen cultural ties with Thailand and the wider Southeast Asian region, which shares many aspects of Hainan's tourist economy.

The project aims to sign about 800 merchants, 300 of which from Southeast Asia.

Building commenced in February and is already nearly one-third completed. The rapid progress is thanks in part to the total investment in the project topping 30 million yuan (around four million U.S. dollars).

The developer says the project is expected to promote in-depth cultural and trade exchanges with Thailand and other Southeast Asian countries across various fields in the future.

Many potential partners are already excited about the market's potential to bring more regional flavors to residents and visitors in Hainan, which is already one of China's most popular domestic tourist destinations.

"We want to present Thai culture and offer Thai experience to Hainan through the opportunity provided by the Baishamen Market in the hope that people in Hainan can enjoy authentic Thai food and culture without having to go abroad," said one Thai merchant who attended the signing ceremony.

Those in charge of the project believe the market could serve as a model for international collaboration in the tourism sector.

"Through the cooperation, we will strengthen cultural and trade connectivity between the two sides in all aspects, help promote the implementation of the project, and strive to make the Baishamen Beach Market a shining new example of the China-Thailand economic and trade cooperation and exchange," said Ma Haijun, general manager of the Meilan District Tourism Investment Development company.

The new project comes amid accelerating growth in the trade volume between China and Southeast Asian countries, which increased by 15 percent in 2022, aided by the new Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)agreement which came into force at the start of last year.

Outdoor sports activities are heating up in Qingdao

QINGDAO -- Outdoor sports activities are heating up across China as people are embracing diverse forms of sports while bathing in the warming spring breeze, which has concurrently spurred sports consumption.

The bathing beaches in east China's coastal city Qingdao are bustling as the water turns warm enough for a refreshing sea swimming. Groups of elder people are among the swimming fans.

"The swimming goggles had better be anti-fogging, and the expensive ones with higher quality are more durable than those that cost about 100 yuan," said Song Xueguang, a swimmer.

"I definitely won't take the swimsuit with poor elasticity. I have got seven or eight swimsuits at home, but I would buy a new one as long as I like it," said Cheng Liqin, another swimmer.

Infrared cameras capture footage of wild cute pandas strolling in snow-capped forest

LONGNAN -- Infrared cameras have recently captured footages of wild cute giant pandas strolling in snow-capped forest in the Baishuijiang area of the Giant Panda National Park in Longnan City, northwest China's Gansu Province.

Covering about 2,600 square kilometers, the area is rich in rare and endangered species, represented by the giant panda.

In efforts to better protect pandas in the wild, staff members of the area have installed many infrared cameras to monitor their conditions. When sorting and classifying the footages captured in February, the staff members found many pieces showing wild pandas leisurely strolling in the snow.

In the video captured by infrared cameras, several individuals were strolling in snow-covered forest, while sniffing around.

According to the park staff, wild pandas were recently monitored to have activities down the mountains, which may be related to their coming estrus period.

Each year from March to May is the estrus period of wild pandas, when they usually leave their territory and signal their courtship by making scent posts.

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Qingdao bolsters marine economy

Qianwan Container Terminal of Qingdao Port.
By Sun Jintao

The eastern coastal city of Qingdao, Shandong province is striving to promote the high-quality development of its marine economy and accelerate the construction of a leading modern marine hub, said local officials at a news conference held on March 9.

The oceans are strategically important to high-quality development, said Qi Yongzhan, deputy director of the Qingdao Municipal Marine Development Bureau.

"We will continue to accelerate progress in the construction of world-class sea ports, a well-established modern maritime industry system, and a green and sustainable marine ecological environment to contribute to the building of a maritime power," added Qi.

According to preliminary statistics, the gross marine product of Qingdao increased by over 7 percent year-on-year in 2022, exceeding 500 billion yuan ($72.65 billion) and accounting for more than 30 percent of the city's GDP.

Last year, the city carried out 88 key marine projects, worth more than 200 billion yuan. There were 153 newly signed projects in the marine sector, involving a total investment of 169.67 billion yuan, including four projects each with an investment of 10 billion yuan.

The Conson No 1, the world's first 100,000-metric-ton fish farming "smart" ship, was delivered in Qingdao last May. At 249.9 meters long and with a displacement of 130,000 tons, the vessel is used as a movable fish farm on the sea for breeding high-end commercial fish, such as large yellow croaker, according to Qingdao Conson Development, the main investor. It is expected to yield 3,700 metric tons of high-quality fish annually.

(chinadaily.com.cn)

Qingdao Oriental Movie Metropolis holds a promotion event at Hong Kong International Film and TV Exhibition

By Mi Jingyu

On March 14, the business promotion event of Qingdao Oriental Movie Metropolis at the Hong Kong International Film and TV Exhibition was held in the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center. With the theme of "leading the film industry, creating Chinese blockbusters", the event intends to introduce professional film practitioners at home and abroad Qingdao's favorable film and TV industry policies as well as advantages in film and TV bases.

Representatives from the leading film companies such as CMC Pictures and Universal Pictures, Hong Kong Trade Development Council and international film and TV industrial circles attended the event. The advanced facilities presented by the Qingdao Oriental Movie Metropolis, including the world-class standard photostudio, Asia's largest indoor and outdoor underwater production center and the globally leading motion capture and virtual shooting digital studio, have attracted enormous attention and recognition.

In the period of stay in Hong Kong, film practitioners from Qingdao visited leading film companies such as Emperor Motion Pictures, and conducted in-depth discussions on international cooperation in the film and TV industry and dissemination of urban cultural images.*(Mi Jingyu)*

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT QINGDAO:

"Qingdao Release" official Weibo QR code

"Qingdao Release" official WeChat QR code

Geely Future Transport Constellation Project put into operation in Qingdao

The constellation AI data operation center.

According to the Aerospace Industry Park in the SCO Demonstration Zone, the Geely Future Transport Constellation project in the park has been put into operation, where China's first low-orbit future transport constellation will be built and operated for satellite measurement, operation and control, data processing and application services. To be built by Zhejiang Geespace Technology Co., Ltd. affiliated to Geely Group with a total investment of RMB 4.12 billion, the project commits to accelerating the commercialization of Chinese satellite application and building world-class demonstration application of satellite-ground incorporated satellites.

Based in the SCO Demonstration Zone as a starting point of global business, Geespace has built the global headquarter for medium- and low-speed satellite communications operation, take advantage of the existing constellations to boost smart marine industry, multimodal transport and smart logistics and underpins international cooperation in the Belt and Road Initiative by high and new technologies. Meanwhile, the project has built China's first constellation AI data operation center that supports self-owned constellation application services, creating a high-reliability, high-safety and low-delay business operation environment for satellite communications, satellite remote sensing AI service, constellation measurement, operation and control services.

(Xi Fuchun)

The world’ s first project for extraction of lithium launched in Qingdao

After two rounds of pilot scale tests and sustained by more than 700 pairs of experiment data, the global industrialization of extraction of lithium from seawater has made a major breakthrough. On the morning of March 8, the Seawater Desalination Company of Qingdao Water Affairs Group and LIS (Shanghai) Materials Technology Co., Ltd. held a signing ceremony in Qingdao Baifa Seawater Desalination Plant, kicking off the world's first project for extraction of lithium from seawater and marking the shift of extraction of lithium from seawater from engineering-based verification to industrialization.

Since December 2021, the Seawater Desalination Company of Qingdao Water Affairs Group started cooperation with LIS Technology, conducted one-year-long engineering-based verification on extraction of lithium from strong saline seawater in Qingdao Baifa Seawater Desalination Plant. After two rounds of pilot scale tests and processing 200,000 tonnes seawater, a high-selectivity and high-throughput sieve for extraction of lithium has been designed and an industrialized device has been made for mass extraction of lithium from seawater. The project will be put into operation as scheduled at the end of this December.

(Wu Shuai)

Qingdao unveils a new plan of urban renewal

The Qingdao Plan of Urban Renewal and Construction (2021-2035) has been unveiled. The plan has specified renewal targets, strategies and methods and is seen by the insiders as an important part of systematically promoting urban renewal in Qingdao.

In light of the plan, Qingdao has analyzed the latest trends in renewal of global advanced cities, studies the current realities and conditions, drawn the experience of other Chinese cities in renewal planning and practice and set the renewal target of transforming Qingdao into a modern and international socialist metropolis for the new era featuring high-quality development, high-quality life and high-efficiency governance. According to the plan, Qingdao will coordinate efforts in reshaping urban structure, using intensively the land, expanding industrial spaces, improving urban functions, enhancing operating efficiency, enhancing human settlement, revitalizing historical resources and restoring ecological environment.

Qingdao will prioritize renovation of old urban residential communities, adhere to the principle of "asking the opinions of the people, catering to the needs of the people" and coordinate construction of facilities of all kinds aimed at building "15 minutes living circles". In terms of renovation of old plants, the old plants that have made the industrial heritage list will focus on conservation, renewal and upgrading. Historical and cultural block will be mainly conserved and renovated according to the criteria of Chinese historically and culturally famous cities and by revitalizing, rebuilding and upgrading the buildings, environment, public spaces and public infrastructure on top of protecting historical and cultural resources. In terms of renewal of old commercial districts, efforts will be ramped up to improve such traditional business districts as Zhongshan Road, Taidong, Hong Kong Middle Road, Licun and Zhengyang Road.

Furthermore, the Plan has listed top priorities for urban renewal and urban construction, aimed at fostering a renewal engine featuring "one core and five poles". Specifically, the Plan calls for invigorating the historical urban districts, leading the renewal of Qingdao's old town, enhancing the city level of Qingdao, improving the Fushan Bay area, reshape the Qingdao Railway North Passenger Station area, updating the Road Zhuzhou to Zhangcunhe area, reshaping the surrounding area of Liuting Airport, upgrading the bonded port zone and fostering the growth poles of the city. *(Wang Bingjie)*

The Qingdao Taiping Mountain Central Park after renewal.
By Liu Dong

Qingdao "single-armed captain" set to challenge Vendée Globe

CHINA DREAM
HAIKOU
"Single-armed captain" Xu Jingkun.

CHINA DREAM
HAIKOU
Xu Jingkun in a race.

On March 13, Xu Jingkun, the "single-armed captain" from Qingdao, held a news conference, saying that he is set to attend the Vendée Globe dubbed as "Everest of the Seas".

At 5:49 a.m. of November 26, 2022 Beijing time, Xu Jingkun steered his sailboat and arrived at the destination in Guadeloupe, Caribbean Sea, and completed the 2022 Route du Rhum solo trans-Atlantic sailing race after an odyssey for 16 days 8 hours and 34 minutes. Xu Jingkun has become the first Chinese captain to qualify for and complete the race as well as the first Asian captain to complete the IMOCA section. This is the third time that Xu Jingkun saw the five-starred red flag fly in the sky of Caribbean ports following the 2015 "MINI TRANSAT" solo trans-Atlantic extreme challenge race and the 2017 China First Catamaran Round the World.

Born in Qingdao in 1989, Xu Jingkun lost his left forearm in an accident at the age of 12 but he has withstood the test of life. In 2008, Xu Jingkun attended the Paralympic Sailing Games in Qingdao as a member of the China national team. From then on, his life has been tied to sailing.

Known as the world's cruelest competition, the Vendée Globe requires contestants to steer an unpowered yacht single-handedly, set off from Vendée, a city in France close to the Atlantic, pass via Cape of Good Hope in Africa, encircle the Antarctica continent, cross the Cape Horn and finally return to France via South America. In the whole journey, yachts don't pull over and continue the trip in one direction without supplies. Because the race is so difficult and time-consuming, it takes place every four years. Contestants usually start off in November and arrive at Vendée, France as early as next February.

Founded in 1992, dubbed as the "Olympic Games for Navigators" and "Everest of the Seas", the race has only seen 89 successful challengers. Foreign media even think that going into space is even less challenging than attending the Vendée Globe. As a captain, Xu Jingkun is keenly aware of hardships and dangers. But he said, every sailor dreams about conquering "Vendée Globe". Ever since I first dipped into sailing 18 years ago, I have been preparing for this race."

(Zhang Yu)

Qingdao targets foreign trade value at over 1t yuan

The import car display area in Qingdao Free Trade Zone. **By Zhang Jingang**

Qingdao in Shandong province is accelerating its status as a strong trade city in six major aspects by setting its foreign trade target for this year at more than 1 trillion yuan ($144.9 billion).

The city will expand the international markets in a combined online and offline mode and organize 20 overseas exhibitions this year. It has formulated work plans for "one country, one policy", helped leading enterprises and warehouse operators expand sales networks and supported enterprises in obtaining orders.

Qingdao seizes the opportunities under free trade agreements such as the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership and the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans Pacific Partnership, deepens trade cooperation with countries and regions involved in the Belt and Road Initiative and expands both emerging and traditional markets such as Europe, the United States, Japan, and South Korea.

It strengthens 12 national foreign trade demonstration bases, enhances the competitiveness of "Made in Qingdao" and facilitates enterprises' digital transformation.

The city also deepens the pilot program of trade in services and builds trade parks in areas such as the West Coast New Area, the China-SCO Local Economic and Trade Cooperation Demonstration, Shinan district and Laoshan district.

Qingdao guides enterprises to make good use of domestic and foreign markets, expands the import of high-quality consumer goods such as meat, fruit and automobiles and cultivates a number of key enterprises including Liqun Group, Hiking Group and Tsingtao Brewery.

The city plans to attract 10,000 cross-border e-commerce entities with an industrial scale of 100 billion yuan.

It is also aiming to introduce 1,000 foreign trade entities and to provide financing for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.

(chinadaily.com.cn)

Shipbuilding in Qingdao at full capacity

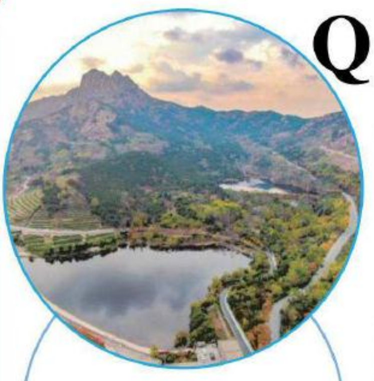
CSSC Qingdao Beihai Shipbuilding Co., Ltd. has finished building a stream of large ships since the beginning of this year. On January 16, two 70,000-tonne woodchip carriers were undocked following two 210,000-tonne bulk cargo ships, marking a milestone. "Our yard is occupied with orders until 2026. We are in a full capacity after production resumed after the Spring Festival." According to Gu Kechao, deputy general manager of CSSC Qingdao Beihai Shipbuilding Co., Ltd., the yard has orders on hand of as many as 51 ships with a total carrying capacity of 8.365mln tonnes, including one 5,500TEUs container ship, one 210,000-tonne LNG dual fuel bulk cargo ship and Ammonia Ready bulk cargo ships, etc.

The production field of CSSC Qingdao Beihai Shipbuilding Co., Ltd.

CSSC Qingdao Beihai Shipbuilding Co., Ltd. unremittingly broadens its business buckling the latest prosperity cycle co-driven by market demand, phase-out of aged ships and conventions on environmental protection. The company secured numerous orders of 210,000-tonnes bulk cargo ships last year, leading the world in both new orders and orders on hand of the type of ship. Furthermore, the company has delivered a total of 32 ULOCs (Ultra Large Ore Carriers), the best-performing among its global peers.

(Wang Wei)

Qingdao becoming park city



An aerial photo of a mountain park in Qingdao.[**Photo/Qingdao Daily**]

The eastern coastal city of Qingdao, Shandong province has been ramping up development and improvement of various types of its greenery and landscapes in a bid to build itself into a park city.

Scattered urban green spaces, such as ecological zones, public parks, leisure parks and micro green landscapes, have been added in the city to provide more green space to the public and better meet people's higher expectations for a happy life.

Last year, the city launched a three-year action plan to promote urban renewal and urban construction, of which the park city construction action is an important component.

In the past year, 60 mountain parks, 163 kilometers of urban greenways, 79 pocket parks, 59 tree-lined corridors, and 114 micro green landscapes were built in the city, which exceeded the annual target.

This year, Qingdao will carry out 101 park city construction projects, to include 57.8 kilometers of new or rebuilt coastal greenways, seven mountain parks, seven comprehensive parks, 80 pocket parks, 45 tree-lined corridors, and 113 micro green landscapes.

Efforts will also be made to create an ecological residential community, where lush mountains, lucid waters, flowers and grasses are an important part of daily life.

By 2025, the green land rate and green coverage rate are expected to be at least 36 percent and 40 percent respectively in the city, while the per capita green area of parks will be no less than 15 square meters.

(chinadaily.com.cn)

Qingdao has its first national tourism and leisure block

The Chinese Ministry of Culture and Tourism has recently unveiled the second batch of national tourism and leisure blocks.The Qingdao Golden Beach Beer City Tourism and Leisure Block made the list, the first one in Qingdao.

Adjacent to Asia's most beautiful Golden Beach in the east and the Tangdao Bay Coastal Park in the West, and inside the Phoenix Island National Tourist Spot, the Qingdao Golden Beach Beer City Tourism and Leisure Block boasts the world's largest beer culture-themed square. The block rises to fame at home and abroad because of Qingdao International Beer Festival, where beer culture elements are seen on Music Avenue, Beer Avenue and Star Avenue. The Phoenix Sound Theatre inside the block, where Qingdao Phoenix Music Festival is held, is an important landmark in Qingdao known as an "island of music".

The Golden Beach Beer City Tourism and Leisure Block. **By Xing Zhifeng**

By cultivating diversified business modes, the Golden Beach Beer City deepens the integration of beer with culture, tourism, sports, MICE, cultural and creative industry, and works to improve commercial activities including beer and fine food, bar and catering, leisure and recreation, sports and themed study travel. 54 brands have presence here, including 9 international brands.

(Ma Xiaoting)

"Hub linkage" between Qingdao Airport and Shenzhen Airport

On March 5, Qingdao International Airport Group and its Shenzhen peer signed a strategic cooperation agreement on hub co-construction, aimed at facilitating fulfillment of national strategies and injecting new growth drivers for high-quality development of the two sides. At present, as many as 80 flights a week fly between Qingdao and Shenzhen, 5% up from pre-pandemic levels. The flight transfer program, which enables passengers in Shenzhen to arrive at northeast China via Qingdao, has become a demonstration route in the linkage of the southbound hub and the northbound one.

On February 17, Qingdao International Airport Group, Xinjiang Airport Group, Xinjiang Branch of China Southern Airlines and Qingdao Airlines have signed a strategic cooperation agreement on Qingdao-Xinjiang "dual-hub" airports and air traffic between Northeast Asia and Central and West Asia, in the sub-forum of industrial internet, "China + five central Asian countries" forum on industry and investment cooperation, which was held in Qingdao. Qingdao International Airport Group and its Xinjiang peer will work together for passenger and cargo routes leading to the SCO member states, and resume faster and increase flights and routes to Japan and South Korea.

(Zhou Jianliang)

Qingdao packed with tourists to welcome the return of spring

In the early spring, everything is vibrant with life in Qingdao. Travelling to Qingdao frequently appear on popular ranking lists.

Sea gulls of the Zhanqiao Pier, ambassadors of Qingdao tourism that citizens are proud of, gather in crowds and groups and fly across the limpid azure sky, astounding tourists who jostle one another on the Pier. It is seen from the air that the golden glazed tiles-cladded Huilan Pavilion are encircled by waves in the wake of passing pleasure-boats. Offshore, reefs, the sea and cityscape are blended, and sunshine decorate the sea surface like gold bits.

When all things are awakened, Liyuan buildings on Dabao Island see a stream of visitors. Tourists take enclosed yards, redwood staircases and six-grid glass windows into their photos. In a ancient Chinese style tea shop, young people get around a table to make tea. In a street cafe, gray-haired elderly chat while tasting coffee, interesting "exchange experience" that embodies the block's charm. The tradition and the modern have been perfectly integrated and everlasting vitality regenerates hustles and bustles in Liyuan buildings.

New business modes and new scenarios make Qingdao tourism stay innovative. It is worthwhile to board a pleasure boat to see the spectacular "red tiles and green trees, blue seas and azure sky" on the sea. In the cloud-clapped Tsingtao Haitian View & Art, art exhibitions, talk shows and art performances deliver fabulous art experience to tourists, and the "diamond corner" built of full height transparent glass in the urban sightseeing hall recently emerges as the best location for photoing. On weekends, music can be heard everywhere on Xiaomai Island. With carefree singers and devoted listeners, the ordinary island finds enormous favor with tourists as an "island of music", and receives around 90,000 tourists on festivals or holidays.

(Ma Xiaoting)

Set in the sea, Xiaomai Island concert is casual but romantic. **By Yu Hao**

Take a speedboat from Huilan Pavilion on the Zhanqiao Pier, leaving behind waves on the sea surface. **By Zhao Jianpeng**

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INVESTMENT

“An open China welcomes investors from all over the world”

A freight train arrives at Wenzhou Port, Zhejiang province. Its cargo will be shipped to Southeast Asian countries under a sea-rail combined transportation mode. ***(China Daily)***

The State Administration of Migration of China has decided to adjust the country’s visa and entry policy starting from 00:00 hours on March 15, 2023. China resumed the entry function of visas issued before March 28, 2020 and still within the validity period. Hainan entry visa exemption, Shanghai cruise ship visa exemption, visa exemption for foreigners from Hong Kong and Macao to enter Guangdong, and visa exemption for ASEAN tourist groups to enter Guilin, Guangxi were alsorestored together.

“An open China welcomes investors from all over the world,” said Premier Li Qiang of the State Council of China on March 13 when he met with Chinese and foreign reporters and answered their questions at a press conference of the First Session of the 14th National People’s Congress. This year, China will further expand opening-up in alignment with high-standard international trade rules, Li was also quoted as saying.

According to Li, opening-up is a basic state policy for China. No matter how the external situation may evolve, China will stay firmly committed to pursuing this policy. Data shows that most foreign companies are still optimistic about their development prospects in China.

Last year, China’s utilized foreign investment totaled over US$189 billion, which is again a record high, and almost US$50 billion higher than that of three years ago. According to *White Paper on the Business Environment in China 2023* recently released by the American Chamber of Commerce in South China, more than 90 percent of the participating companies select China as one of the most important investment destinations, and 75 percent of the participating companies plan to reinvest in China in 2023.

As a major step taken by China to open its market to and share its development opportunities with the world, the China International Import Expo has been held uninterruptedly for five years. Last year there were over 2,800 enterprises from 127 countries and regions attending the Expo.

“China’s policy of opening up to the outside world is really about win-win cooperation and has benefited the whole world,” said Zamir Ahmed Awan, founding chair of a Pakistani think tank known as the Global Silk Road Research Alliance (GSRRA).

China sets its GDP growth target for 2023 at around 5 percent, which is higher than not only the expected economic growth of the world but also that of emerging markets and developing countries for the same period. China’s strong economic growth will further boost the world’s economic recovery.

(Xinhua, People’s Daily)

PEOPLE

The spirit of Lei Feng reflects common values of humanity

"Life is limited, but serving the people is limitless. If one person can put the limited life into limitless cause of serving people, his or her life will become limitless."

This is one of the most well-known quotes from Lei Feng, a humble township government messenger, civil servant and later army truck driver of China in the 1950s and 1960s.

March 5, marks the annual Lei Feng Day across China. As a national role model who epitomizes the spirits of selflessness, diligence, humility and dedication, he has been commemorated and learned by Chinese people for decades.

Lei Feng, however, never walks alone. Every country around the world has its own heroes and role models that keep encouraging and inspiring the public despite time changes.

Therefore, we invite 6 young representatives from the Lancang-Mekong countries to share the stories of “Lei Feng” in their hearts.

(Yunnan Daily)

Zhang Shiqin (China)

Lei Feng has left us with innumerable stories and memories. As a teacher from the Yulong Middle School in northeast Yunnan’s Lijiang, I find him particularly inspiring because education can never be bettered without the devotion of every teacher.

Choun Lin (Cambodia)

Lei Feng is not just a product of his own era. Selflessness, dedication, helpfulness, modesty... All these spirits which he shows are invaluable human assets that should be highly recognized, learned and passed on by people from around the world.

Santisouk Lachanphet (Laos)

In China, Lei Feng is an undoubtedly a symbol of dedication. To the people in Laos, Kaysone Phomvihane is such a figure like Lei Feng. As the former president of Laos, he dedicated his entire life to the liberation of Lao people and the development of our country.

Sai Myo Min Tun (Myanmar)

People primarily remember Lei Feng by his “selfless service for the people”. This reminds me of Khaing Hin Wai, a renowned actress and philanthropist in Myanmar who has helped many orphans and disabled children. To me, she is genuinely the “Lei Feng of Myanmar.”

Arunee Anusuriya (Thailand)

I totally understand people’s feeling for Lei Feng here in China, because we have the same admiration and respectfulness for our beloved King Bhumibol the Great. What he did for his whole life was to make Thai people live a better life.

Trinh Nguyet Lan (Vietnam)

“Serving others without any thought of self-interests” was Lei Feng’s motto. In Vietnam, the story of Vo Thi Sau has inspired one after another generations. As a young female guerilla, she sacrificed her life for the nation’s independence at the age of 19.

TOURISM

Wang Ning welcomes visitors to Yunnan for special lifestyle

"I sincerely welcome everyone to our province for experiencing the 'special Yunnan lifestyle', hoping you guys could continue to care about Yunnan, help us find more problems and give us more advice," said Wang Ning, a deputy of the Chinese National People’s Congress (NPC).

In response to the online comments on Yunnan tourism, Wang, also the secretary of the CPC Yunnan Provincial Committee, said this via People’s Daily Online on the occasion of the ongoing first session of the 14th NPC, adding the provincial authorities will take the cyber views seriously, in a bid to “create a bright future for Yunnan tourism” and contribute to the beautiful China initiative.

Thanking the netizens for their suggestions, Wang noted that during the Spring Festival, the hit TV series *Meet Yourself* has greatly boosted Yunnan tourism, and a record-high of tourists travelled to the province for the week-long holiday. “Your ever-lasting care and creativity in the TV play have caused Yunnan tourism to gain momentum and rebound strongly,” Wang said.

Now, a new trendy topic of "enjoying the special Yunnan lifestyle” has already formed online among tourists. As for the typical elements of the lifestyle, Wang mentioned the Lesser Panda Manor in a Pu'er forest park, the golden sunrise on the Meili Snow Mountain, a coffee break in Baoshan’s Xinzhai village, a purple-pottery tour in Jianshui old town, and others.

Tourism development has been high on the agenda of Yunnan provincial authorities. Known as a kingdom for plants and animals and the world’s garden, Yunnan features dazzling landscapes and diverse ethnic customs. The weather is springlike all year round, with flowers in full blossom.

Wang noted Yunnan is a dreamy place of poetic beauty, citing the northbound journey by an elephant family, the Kunming city frequented by red-billed gulls from Siberia, the tropical rain forest in Xishuangbanna, the beautiful landscapes in Dali and Lijiang, as well as the Lancan-Mekong express trains that link Yunnan to Laos.

“We’ll continue to innovate tourist products, business formats and modes, further integrating tourism into other industries,” Wang said.

(People’s Daily)

RURAL REVITALIZATION

A modern community emerges from the past

Over the last decade, Dulongjiang township, Gongshan county of Yunnan province, has seen drastic changes, which resulted in one of the most remote, closed and poorest areas in China embracing digital and modern life.

Home of one of the country's smallest ethnic groups, the Derung, Dulongjiang township used to be isolated by deep gorges and snowcapped mountains until 2014, when a tunnel provided access to the wider world.

For hundreds of years, Derung people lived a primitive life — sleeping in thatched homes, traversing rivers by rope crossing, climbing the mountains on handmade vine ladders. But now it has been transformed.

In October 2012, our reporters visited the town to meet the residents.

The 79.6-kilometer mountain road from Gongshan county to the town had 794 bends. We departed at 8 am and arrived as the sun was setting.

In February this year, we revisited the area. This time, it took just two hours to drive there. Upon arrival, what we saw were brand-new dwellings surrounded by clear rivers. The shaky single-log bridges were replaced by sturdy modern structures.

Everybody has a mobile phone except for some of the elderly and children. E-commerce, express delivery and livestreaming are no longer something unusual. Students enjoy free education from kindergarten to senior middle school. With a permanent population of 5,000, the residents have 1,036 automobiles.

The dramatic change in fortunes of the Derung people shows how life has changed for 100 millions of people through the country's poverty alleviation and rural vitalization programs in the past decade. ***(China Daily)***

ECOLOGY

“The watchtower is our home deep in the mountains”

It was March 12, 2023, China’s 45th Arbor Day. Wang Shigui, 65, got up at the crack of dawn. After a quick breakfast, he changed into a ranger’s uniform, picked up his binoculars and sickle, and stepped out of the watchtower of the Huamu Mountain Forest Farm. Heading into the dense forest, he started his working day.

Wang is a ranger of the Huamu Mountain Forest Farm in Longhai Township, Luliang County, Qujing City, Yunnan Province. The forest farm, located more than 30 kilometers away from the county seat, covers a total area of nearly 500 hectares. Wang’s job is to guard the forest farm against fire. “A patrolling tour takes at least four hours, and I make two patrolling tours a day,” Wang said with a smile, adding that he has been doing this for 24 years.

Man Meihuan, Wang’s wife, also lives in the watchtower. When her husband just became a ranger, she would travel between the forest and the village every day, bringing food or coming to cook for him. Twelve years ago, she was also hired as a ranger and joined her husband in the forest. “The watchtower is our home deep in the mountain,” she said.

The trees planted by one generation must be preserved by succeeding generations. “I just want to protect this forest, because it’s valuable wealth left by the older generation,” Wang said. These plain words show a strong faith of Wang and his wife, and they have lived up it. To their greatest pride, the past 24 years has never seen a fire in the Huamu Mountain Forest Farm.

(Xinhua)

> *In 2022, China increased its greening space by more than 7 million hectares, including 3.83 million hectares of newly afforested land and 3.214 million hectares of newly grassed land. In addition, the country also curbed the spread of desertification and stony deserts over 1.8473 million hectares of land.*

Editor: Yang Xing; Designer: Qin Wen

3rd China International Digital Products Expo starts global business attraction

Leading-edge technologies to gather in the spectacular exhibition of digital products

[Fuzhou Evening News] The third CIDPE (China International Digital Products Expo) has started global business attraction in an all-round way. Worldwide digital titans will attend the third expo with leading-edge technology and present an utterly new exhibition of digital products.

As an important part of the Digital China Summit and held for two times since 2021, the CIDPE highlights "transaction of digital products, cooperation in digital industry" and aspires to evolve into a digital products and content transaction platform that features "buying and selling worldwide".

With a total planned exhibition area of 31,000 square meters, the third CIDPE will set up a few themed exhibition areas on digital life, digital PV and digital health, etc., and hold many supporting activities. The digital life area, which will showcase advances in digital economy and technology, is mainly attracting businesses from smart home, consumption electronics, artificial intelligence, intelligent mobility, digital trade, digital and visual industry, Metaverse and intelligent government. The digital PV area, which will showcase leading-edge and innovative digital PV technologies, products and new materials at home and abroad, is mainly inviting businesses from optical communication technology and application, laser and intelligent manufacturing, chips and terminal application, optics and precision manufacturing. The digital health area, which will showcase the latest trends in the digital health industry, is mainly soliciting businesses from digital health, digital medical care and digital hospital. *(Jiang Hai)*

"Fuzhou Goldfish" IP makes its global debut

[Fuzhou Evening News] At 19 p.m. of February 17, the "Enjoy with the World" 2023 Fuzhou Goldfish Culture Festival and the presentation ceremony of "Fuzhou Goldfish" IP took place in the Haisi Square, Heart of Minjiang River. As the global debut of "Fuzhou Goldfish" IP, the event intended to boost industrial development with culture and enhance the city's fame as the "Chinese capital of goldfish".

The evening's event began with a dancing program called Fish Travelling around the World. The presentation and authorization ceremony for "Fuzhou Goldfish" IP was held and the original "Fuzhou Goldfish" IP image made its global debut. Fully combined with Fu culture, the image is presented in a cartoon style by goldfish staring at each other, manifesting that goldfish are adorable and charmingly naive. The exceptionally distinguishable shape derives from traditional Chinese dwelling windows, implying that Fuzhou goldfish are known far and wide. The texts and the graphs set each other off beautifully, constitute a simple but elegant whole, and perfectly balance traditional Chinese culture with international fashion.

With the most goldfish breeding farms in China, Fuzhou boasts an annual output of over 15 million goldfish of different kinds, making up around 80% of China's high-end goldfish market, thus earning itself the name-- "Chinese capital of goldfish". Minhou County, Fuzhou's largest goldfish breeding base which contributes about 70% of Fuzhou's goldfish industry, is reputed as the "Chinese hometown of goldfish". *(Zheng Ruixiang)*

福州金鱼
ENJOY WITH THE WORLD
FUZHOU GOLDFISH

Fuzhou Goldfish IP design sharing. Photo by Zheng Shuai

Share weal and woe for a brighter future

11th Cross–straits TV Art Festival kicks off

Audiences appreciate outstanding posters from the two sides of the straits. Photo by the sponsor

[Fuzhou Evening News] Themed with "Cross-straits Film and TV Circles Working for a Beautiful Future with One Heart", the opening ceremony of the 11th Cross-straits TV Art Festival and the exhibition of outstanding film and TV posters from the two sides of the Straits took place in Fuzhou New Area on February 9. TV art practitioners across the Strait, who could only meet via video link over the past three years, finally gathered along glinting Donghu Lake to exchange mutual opinions on the new trends in the TV and media industry.

The exhibition has reportedly solicited more than 120 outstanding film and TV posters from the two sides of the Straits, involving films, TV series, programs, documentaries and cartoons, about 50 of which are from Taiwan.

Centering on the theme of "share the same root and combine audiovisual art with new Chinese fashion trend", the guests from both two sides highlighted interaction and integration between traditional culture and audiovisual art, and had discussions.

The cross-straits TV art festival has reportedly set up the 14th cross-straits TV hosting rookie show, the exhibition of outstanding cross-straits film and TV posters and the cross-straits TV art forum. The cross-straits TV hosting rookie show, which began preparation and qualifying competition one year ago, has selected a total of 18 teams across the Straits to attend the finals. *(Zhao Xinyue)*

Youth Square honored with China Design Excellence Award

Youth Square, an internet-famous site at the Heart of Minjiang River. Photo by Chen Nuan

[Fuzhou Evening News] The fifth China Design Excellence Awards, presented by AIA Shanghai were recently unveiled. Youth Square, an internet-famous site at the Heart of Minjiang River, clinched a winning prize, the latest significant award among eight ones it secured in the past six months.

The Youth Square was put into the category of "Adaption recycling/renovation/protection of history-architecture", where only winning prize and shortlisted prize are established. The renovation of Youth Square received the only winning prize in the category.

Since September 16, 2022, the renovation of Youth Square at the Heart of Minjiang River has been honored with 7 titles, namely gold award in the 2022 Global Future Design Awards, gold award in the 2022 World Design Awards, silver award of urban design in the specialist group of the 13rd Yuanye Awards International Competition, one of the top 10 landscape projects in the 2022 ELA International Landscape Awards, first prize in the Eduwik Architecture Excellence Awards 2022, silver award of urban design in the 2022 U.S. Muse Creative Awards, and the most outstanding award of urban design in the Architecture Master Prize. *(Li Jinqing)*

China's first Fu culture-themed block expedites its second phase planning and construction

Pure happiness on "Fu Street"

守「福」待兔
中国第一福街
福气满满
福来福往

Citizens and tourists stroll around the "Fu Street". Photo by Ye Cheng

[Fuzhou Evening News] The "Fu Street" has emerged as a popular internet-famous site, driving up consumption initially, since its first phase went into operation. Its second phase's planning and construction is in rapid progress.

Across the Youth Square, Heart of Minjiang River, the "Fu Street" is enclosed by Jiangbin West Avenue, Zhongping Road and Qingnian Horizontal Road. Fu culture-related elements are everywhere on the street. Quite a few squares such as "Wan Fu", "Wu Fu" and "Ju Fu" themed squares, are associated with "Fu" , a symbol of happiness and auspiciousness in traditional Chinese culture. The squares offer sites of leisure and recreation for citizens and tourists at ordinary times and see a variety of folk culture activities on holidays and festivals.

With a favorable geographic position, the "Fu Street" , located at the central axis of the city and connecting the Shangxiahang Historical and Cultural Block and the core area of Heart of Minjiang River, has drawn quite a number of citizens and tourists, thereby spurring consumption. The "Fu Street", boasting various Fu culture-featured consumption scenarios, attracted over millions of visitors and generated over RMB10mln in transaction in the 2023 New Year's Day and Spring Festival holidays, thus shoring up market confidence and facilitating recovery across industries.

Furthermore, the "Fu Street" will continue to tap into Fu culture, introduce craftsmanship factors to put up sites of display for intangible cultural heritage skills, embrace new forms of operation to open Fu culture-themed Guochao (Chinese fashion trend) IP shops, give play to "Fu culture +" to seek presence in the cultural and creative industry and other related industries. The street's second phase's planning and construction, which will create more highlights, is in rapid progress. *(Zhang Haoqing / Zhao Zhengyan)*

New journey of modernization as Xi re-elected

Xi Jinping was unanimously elected Chinese president early this month at the session of China's national legislature, leading the country of 1.4 billion people onto a new journey toward modernization.

He was also elected chairman of the country's Central Military Commission by a unanimous vote.

A total of 2,952 deputies were present at the third plenary meeting of the first session of the 14th National People's Congress.

Xi, Li Qiang, Zhao Leji, Wang Huning, Han Zheng, Cai Qi, Ding Xuexiang and Li Xi attended the meeting.

Li Qiang was endorsed as premier.

China's State Council, the cabinet, will reform its institutions after the plan was approved during the first session of the 14th National People's Congress for deliberation. Here's what is listed in the plan:

To restructure Ministry of Science and Technology in self-reliance drive

China plans to restructure the Ministry of Science and Technology to better allocate resources to overcome challenges in key and core technologies, and move faster toward greater self-reliance in science and technology.

The ministry will play a bigger role in improving a new system for mobilizing the nation to make technological breakthroughs, optimizing sci-tech innovation, facilitating application of sci-tech advances, and coordinating science and technology with economic and social development.

To set up a national financial regulatory administration

China will set up a national financial regulatory administration, according to the plan.

Directly under the State Council, the proposed administration will be in charge of regulating the financial industry, except the securities sector.

It will be established on the basis of the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission, which will not be retained, the plan said, noting that certain functions of the People's Bank of China and the China Securities Regulatory Commission will be transferred to the new administration.

To deepen reform of local financial regulatory mechanism

China will deepen the reform of its local financial regulatory mechanism.

To do that, China will develop a local financial regulatory mechanism with agencies dispatched by central financial regulators as the mainstay. The institutional structure and resources of these dispatched agencies will be optimized in a coordinated manner, the plan noted.

Top securities regulator to become agency directly under State Council

The China Securities Regulatory Commission will become a government agency, rather than a public institution, under the State Council.

To advance reform of central bank branches

China will advance reform of the branches of the People's Bank of China, the central bank.

To improve regulatory mechanism on state-owned financial capital

The regulatory mechanism on state-owned financial capital will be improved.

To unify staff management of financial regulators

China will unify and standardize the management of staff of financial regulators.

To establish a national data bureau

A national data bureau will be set up. The proposed bureau, to be administered by the National Development and Reform Commission, will be responsible for advancing the development of data-related fundamental institutions, coordinating the integration, sharing, development and application of data resources, and pushing forward the planning and building of a Digital China, and a digital society, among others.

To improve functions of Agriculture and Rural Affairs Ministry

The functions of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs will be improved.

To improve elderly-care work mechanism

China will improve its elderly-care work mechanism to implement the proactive national strategy in response to population aging and to expand basic elderly-care services to all senior citizens.

To improve IPR management mechanism

China will improve the management mechanism for intellectual property rights to upgrade IPR creation, application, protection and management.

According to the plan, the China National Intellectual Property Administration, currently administered by the State Administration for Market Regulation, will be adjusted into an institution directly under the State Council.

National administration handling public petitions directly under State Council

The National Public Complaints and Proposals Administration will become an institution directly under the State Council from one under the general office of the State Council. This will strengthen and improve the handling of public petitions and better safeguard the interests of the people.

To downsize staff of central-level state institutions by 5%

China's state institutions at the central level will downsize their staff by 5 percent. The State Council will still consist of 26 departments besides its general office.

(Agencies)

ACHIEVEMENTS & GOALS

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang delivered a government work report on behalf of the State Council at the opening meeting of the first session of the 14th National People's Congress on March 5.

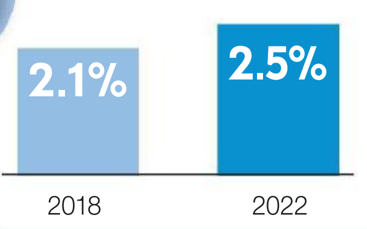
ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2022	GOALS IN 2023
GDP ▲3%	GDP ▲5%
CPI ▲2%	CPI ▲3%
New urban jobs 12.06 million	New urban jobs 12 million
Surveyed urban unemployment 5.5%	Surveyed urban unemployment 5.5%
Grain production 685 billion kg	Grain production 650 billion kg

ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS

GDP ▲5.2% annual average

Poverty elimination 100 million people have been lifted out of poverty after 8 years of sustained efforts

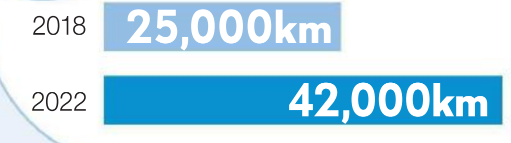
Investment in R&D



New urban jobs >12.7 million annual average

Imports and exports ▲8.6% annual average

High-speed railways in operation



The success of **Beijing Winter Olympic** and **Paralympic Games**

A victory in the **prevention** and **control** of the pandemic

Source: Government work report delivered at the first session of the 14th NPC

Graphics by Shen Xinyi/Shanghai Daily

China resumes visa issue for foreigners

Travelers queue up to go through immigration formalities at the Pudong International Airport in Shanghai on Sunday. — IC

China once again started issuing a range of visas to foreigners this month in a major easing of travel restrictions in place since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The move marks the latest step towards reopening China to the outside world, as Beijing breaks with the strict COVID restriction.

In addition to new visas being reviewed and approved, those issued before March 28, 2020, that remain valid, once again allow entry to China, said a notice posted earlier on a social media account affiliated with the foreign ministry's consular affairs bureau.

Similar notices appeared on the websites of several overseas Chinese missions, including its embassies in the United States and France.

The updated policy also allows for the resumption of visa-free travel for those arriving on cruise ships to Shanghai as well as for certain tourist groups from Hong Kong, Macau and countries within the ASEAN regional grouping, the notice said.

The move would "further facilitate the exchange of Chinese and foreign personnel," it added.

China received 65.7 million international visitors in 2019, according to data from the United Nations World Tourism Organization.

China began emerging from its strict COVID-19 containment strategy in late 2022. Beijing announced in late December that inbound travelers to the country would no longer need to quarantine from January 8, but kept in place visa restrictions on foreigners. At the time, Beijing said it would "continue to adjust its visa policy for foreigners visiting China in a scientific and dynamic manner in accordance with ... the epidemic situation."

It also then resumed issuing Chinese passports for "tourism" or "overseas visits of friends."

With cases surging in China around the New Year, several countries — notably Japan and South Korea — reimposed restrictions on Chinese visitors.

The US in early January joined other countries in taking new measures after Beijing's decision to lift its COVID-19 policies. As cases waned in China, both sides subsequently eased those restrictions.

The US announced the lifting of COVID-19 test requirements for travelers from China in early March. Australia's health minister later said the country will drop the requirement for travelers arriving from China to test for COVID-19 before departure from March 11.

South Korea also dropped a requirement for pre-departure COVID-19 test for travelers from China starting from the same day, in its latest step to ease border controls.

Meanwhile, Japan dropped a requirement that everyone take a test for the coronavirus upon arrival from China on March 1.

(Agencies)

"The Phantom of the Opera" was first staged in China at the Shanghai Grand Theater. — Ti Gong

Raise the curtains as overseas performances receive green light

Ma Yue

CULTURE and tourism administrative departments around China once again accept and approve commercial performances from overseas, starting from March 20, according to the latest notice from China's Ministry of Culture and Tourism, aiming to revive the country's performing art market after the pandemic.

"This is undoubtedly a very positive signal, boosting our confidence in reaching more performance agreements with partners from overseas," Zhang Xiaoding, general manager of the Shanghai Grand Theater, told Shanghai Daily.

"It will also positively influence the performing arts market," she said.

Overseas commercial performances have been absent for over three years due to the pandemic. China downgraded the COVID-19 management from Class A to Class B in January, and the limitations on international travel abolished gradually.

Some international artists have since arrived in China to get involved in stage creation, including Italian theatrical director Marco Carniti, who worked with his Chinese colleagues on a new version of Puccini's "La Bohème," which premiered at the Shanghai Grand Theater in February.

But commercial performances from overseas were still absent. Earlier this month, the Shanghai Oriental Art Center became one of the first Shanghai theaters to announce the return of international troupes when unveiling its spring-summer performance season.

France's Renaud Capucon gave a violin recital on May 19, making him the first international artist to perform at the Art Center since the pandemic.

Other performers and troupes from overseas include the St Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra, the Chelyabinsk State Academic Opera and Ballet Theater, Russian pianist Andrei Ivanovich, and Polish pianist Katarzyna Borek.

The Shanghai Grand Theater is also working actively to import overseas performances. According to Zhang, a new version of Wagner's "Lohengrin" will hit the stage in September. It's the first joint collaboration between the Shanghai Opera House, the Shanghai Grand Theater and the Bavarian State Opera.

Famed Wagnerian dramatic tenor Klaus Florian Vogt, dramatic soprano Johannes van Oostrum, and bass-baritone Andreas Bauer Kanabas will perform along with Shanghai Opera House artists.

Other international programs under planning include original musicals and musical gala concerts by original casts.

The Shanghai International Arts Festival is expected to make a return after years of absence. Zhang said the Shanghai Grand Theater is working together with organizers of the festival for negotiations with world-class opera houses, ballet companies and symphony orchestras.

"The talks are underway. Big troupes from overseas and performance agent companies all showed great interest in visiting Shanghai," She said.

Theater Young in Yangpu District will also open its stage to international drama troupes this year. The theater began operation last year and has been introducing quality domestic stage work to audiences.

The Cadillac Shanghai Concert Hall also announced yesterday that it will have famous pianists David Fray and Ivo Pogorelich, as well as violinist Gidon Kremer performing in Shanghai between May and June respectively.

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Unconcealable !

Mission Hills of ancient ruins becomes a smash hit

In the Lantern Festival
nearby residents were amazed to find
the once-shut Mission Hills of ancient ruins for renovation
"re-opened"

First Shenzhen intangible cultural heritage fair
and fourth cultural tourism festival took place in
Mission Hills of ancient ruins simultaneously

Mission Hills of ancient ruins
was packed with people

In the debut after renovations
ancient-style fairs
and festive atmosphere
enable a time travel instantly
Intangible folk performances like acrobatics
dazzle audiences

Hustle and bustle
highlighted unique charm of
Mission Hills of ancient ruins

Mission Hills of ancient ruins dubbed as "Little Hong Kong"

Mission Hills of ancient ruins, exceptionally prosperous hundreds of years ago, was dubbed as "Little Hong Kong". Composed of Mission Hills Avenue, Xindong Street, Dongmen Street, Nanmen Street, Ximen Street, Maibu Street and Longgangding Street, it is among the top four ancient ruins in Shenzhen along with Dongmen old street, Shajingqing ancient ruins and Shatoujiao old street.

In its prime, row upon row of firms, stores and workshops
were built in Mission Hills of ancient ruins
Every trade can be found
A vivid painting of life

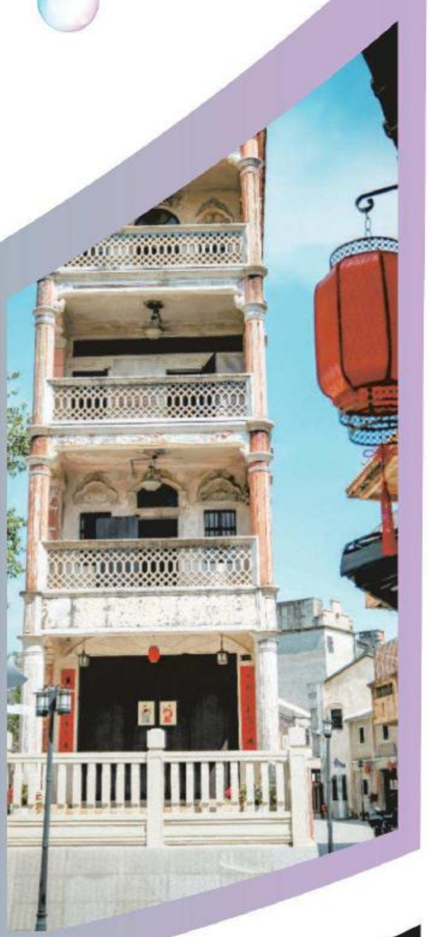
With social and economic advances
and shift of production and consumption
Mission Hills of ancient ruins was on the wane
Building structure started decaying
To restore the prosperity of Mission Hills of ancient ruins like it used to be hundreds of years ago, Longhua district pursued protective development in the area from Mission Hills of ancient ruins to Guihutang Laowei, and followed "repairing the old as the old and prioritizing conservation" in renovation to advance sustainable development.

With renovation completed late last year
New Mission Hills of ancient hills were to be unveiled in front of citizens

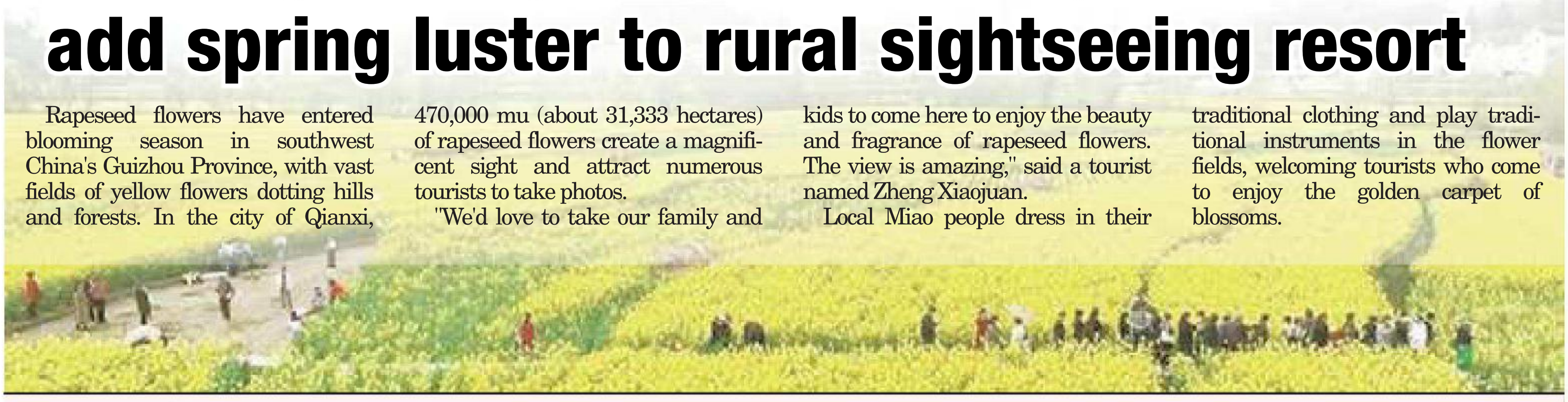
The sub-venue of first Shenzhen intangible cultural heritage fair
and fourth Longhua district cultural tourism festival
unveiled the mystery
impressing citizens greatly

Reportedly, Mission Hills of ancient ruins will introduce commercial operation to present its culture, restore the historic prosperity, inherit and carry forward Shenzhen history and culture to make the city increasingly charming.

Hey, Longhua citizens
Have you been to the new Mission Hills of ancient ruins?



Charming beauty, fragrance of rapeseed flowers add spring luster to rural sightseeing resort



Rapeseed flowers have entered blooming season in southwest China's Guizhou Province, with vast fields of yellow flowers dotting hills and forests. In the city of Qianxi, 470,000 mu (about 31,333 hectares) of rapeseed flowers create a magnificent sight and attract numerous tourists to take photos.

"We'd love to take our family and kids to come here to enjoy the beauty and fragrance of rapeseed flowers. The view is amazing," said a tourist named Zheng Xiaojuan.

Local Miao people dress in their traditional clothing and play traditional instruments in the flower fields, welcoming tourists who come to enjoy the golden carpet of blossoms.

Cherry blossoms present pink feast to visitors in Guangxi

Blooming cherry blossoms in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region have created a pink ocean for local residents and visitors.

In Pingnan County, trees give off a delicate fragrance of cherry blossoms, attracting bees and butterflies to flutter around.

Tourists are drawn to the beauty of clusters of pink blossoms and they cannot resist taking photos.

Guangzhou kicks off fair to explore new trends in digital cultural industry

The 2023 Guangzhou Cultural Industry Fair kicked off on Thursday in Guangzhou City of south China's Guangdong Province, focusing on new trends in the development of the digital cultural industry.

The fair, scheduled for Thursday to Saturday, focuses on the high-quality development of the cultural industry and tourism industry, and showcases the development achievements of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area in new business forms and models such as the digital cultural and creative products, digital publishing, and ultra-high-definition video.

More than 1,000 enterprises and institutions participated in the fair this year. And the total exhibition area is about 50,000 square meters.

"The exhibition halls provide tourists with immersive experiences. There are many places where people can take pictures. Outside, there is also a combination of water mist and laser. There are also immersive experiences about whales. It's really shocking. I'm so excited to be here," said Ou Xushi, a visitor.

As a part of the fair, the China Animation Licensing Conference was also held on Thursday to provide comprehensive services for the animation industry.

China's Shaanxi Province unveils top six archeological findings of 2022

A total of six historical sites with the earliest dating back to the Paleolithic period were listed as northwest China's Shaanxi Province's new archaeological discoveries of 2022 on Sunday.

The six projects stood out due to their new discoveries and new understandings, with a time span of millions of years.

Archaeologists have found more than 12,000 Paleolithic stoneware items in the Yeyuan relic site in Luonan County of Shangluo City, an open site of the Paleolithic Age.

The unearthed items included stone scrapers, sharp tools, chopping tools, and hand axes, to name a few.

Archeologists have confirmed that the stratum accumulation of the site is as thick as 24 meters, and more than 12,000 pieces of stone artifacts have been unearthed.

Archaeological judgment found that the Xitou relic site in Xunyi County, Xianyang City, has a distribution area of about 2 million square meters of remains from the Shang (1600-1046 BC) and Zhou (1046-256 BC) dynasties.

It is one of the largest Shang and Zhou settlements discovered in the Jing River Basin so far.

Also among the list is the ancient city of Yueyang, located in Yanliang District, Xi'an City. This is the place where the famous statesman Shang Yang carried out his profound political reforms during the Qin Dynasty (221-206 BC) and the first city of the Han Dynasty (206 BC-220 AD).

The ruins of the two ancient bridges that date back to the Han Dynasty and Tang Dynasty (618-907) are also among the list.

The site of Qingping Fort in Jingbian County is one of the 36 forts of the Great Wall in Yansui Town in the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644).

Remains of the central building, the south gate, the fortified outpost, Xianying Palace, dwellings and shops were found at the site. There are more than 30 exquisite painted clay statues, and the appearance and clothing can be distinguished into the Ming Dynasty and Mongolian styles.

Spring blossoms create enchanting spring scenery in parts of China

Lovely flowers have bloomed in some regions of China as the weather is warming up, attracting flocks of tourists to bask in the spring warmth and breeze.

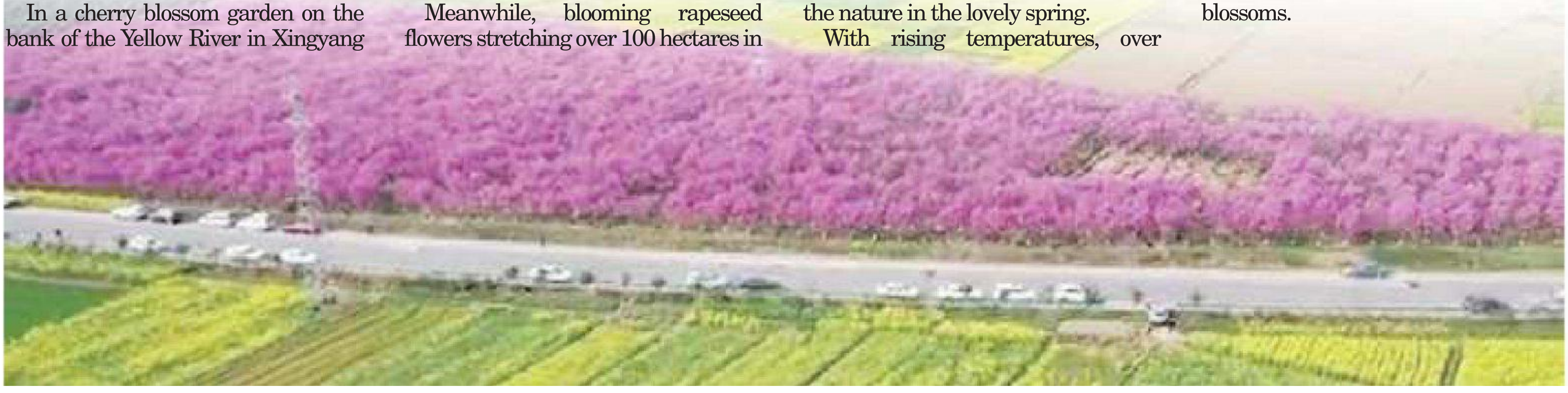
In Mianxian County of Hanzhong City, northwest China's Shaanxi Province, more than 2,000 prunus flowers have bloomed into a sea of rapeseed flowers, decorating hills and villages and attracting thousands of visitors each day.

In a cherry blossom garden on the bank of the Yellow River in Xingyang City of central China's Henan Province, more than 120, 000 cherry trees in over 80 categories are in full bloom. Tourists were seen trying to take photos to keep the enchanting scenery in mind.

The fascinating scenery of lovely flowers has also graced spring in Xihua Park of Kunming City, southwest China's Yunnan Province, with clusters of crabapple blossoms releasing great vitality to the season.

Meanwhile, blooming rapeseed flowers stretching over 100 hectares in Guiding County of Qiannan Buyi and Miao Autonomous Prefecture, southwest China's Guizhou Province, have attracted flocks of tourists to embrace the nature in the lovely spring.

With rising temperatures, over 30,000 peach trees covering an area of 100 hectares in Leshan City of southwest China's Sichuan Province have greeted the spring with breathtaking blossoms.



Disabled female artist on artistic odyssey in pursuing long-cherished dreams

A disabled Chinese female artist has been on an artistic odyssey in relentlessly pursuing her long-cherished dreams, which reaped fruitful results and stunning painting works, inspiring all the disabled to forge ahead bravely and unremittingly for chasing their ideal lives.

Forty-five-year-old Zhang Junli has been painting from her bed for decades. As difficult as the process looks, her works have been wowing many.

The bedridden artist has so far finished more than 500 works, solely by referring to photos and her own imagination.

"I love beautiful things -- beautiful scenery, flowers, grass and all that can touch my heart. For some places where I could never be, I draw them on my canvases. It's like my brush takes me on my travels over the canvas," she said.

Zhang, living in Taiyuan City of northern China's Shanxi Province, used to be a healthy child until she developed arthritis aged six.

The condition became so severe that she became paralyzed at eight and her body stopped growing, suffering pain from time to time.

In the darkest moment of life, Zhang picked up a brush and started to create a colorful and lively world in paintings.

"The white pigeons are exceptionally beautiful, and they can fly. I really want to fly to feel the freedom. Sometimes I dream about flying freely," she said.

One of her favorites is a picture of the Salt Lake.

"I imagine the little girl in the painting is myself. I yearn to go visit the Salt Lake. As I can't go there, I let myself 'stroll' there in my painting," Zhang said.

Pain has never left Zhang and she needs to take medication to ease it every day. But she has never stopped painting.

Last July, with the help from all walks of life, Zhang opened her first painting exhibition in the city's library, with a name meaning "where the heart longs for".

Eighty of her pieces were on display.

"I think women should be braver. I hope whoever you are and whatever situations you are in, women should try hard to pursue their dreams to make life glow and live happily," she said.

Time-honored brands captivate young consumers with creative ideas

Time-honored brands in Shanghai are vying for the attention of younger consumers with all kinds of creative ideas as they pursue new business successes.

Known as "laozihao" in Chinese, time-honored brands are coveted titles given by the government to brands with a long history.

Shanghai is now home to 180 "China Time-Honored Brands" and 104 local time-honored brands. Most of them are evolving with time to attract young people.

With coffee served at the bar counter, and the latest eyeglasses placed on the rotating conveyor belt, an optical shop on Huaihai Road of downtown Shanghai has lured customers in recent weeks with its innovative designs.

"You can drink coffee while trying on glasses. It's so creative. We didn't notice some of the styles in the show window. But if you drink coffee here, you are more likely to buy one as they rotate around you," said a Shanghai resident who visited the shop.

This shop uses almost half of its space to sell crafted coffee products that appeal to young customers.

"Coffee is consumed at a high frequency, while glasses at a relatively low frequency. Then we use the former to drive the sales of the latter. As a result, our customer flow has nearly doubled," said Jin Shaochun, sales manager of the optical shop.

A honey company is also innovating its products to find its way out in the highly competitive market. By packaging honey into spoons, the brand has enjoyed great success among young consumers who prefer instant foods.

"Before 2015, our customers were mainly people aged above 50, which accounted for 70 percent of the total. Now customers aged between 20 and 40 make up the lion's share," said Li Haibin, general manager of the company.

Co-branding with influential Intellectual Property (IP), "limited edition," exclusive releases a dazzling array of creative marketing strategies are bring these time-honored brands closer to young consumers.

"Laozihao features good quality, long history and customer loyalty. They can display even stronger vitality if young people are passionate about their products and pass them down," said Zhou Yuanzhu, director of the Shanghai Institute of Corporate Culture and Brand Research.

Young people in Kenya take social media by storm with inventive creations

As social media platforms are gaining popularity among youth in Kenya, it has become a craze for young people to gather in Nairobi's central business district on Sundays to film their creations and share their work with people across the world through the internet.

On Sunday mornings, the streets in the central business district of Nairobi come alive with the sound of music. The pavements turn into one big filming location for dozens of content-creators, most of them are filming videos and taking still photos.

Alexander Njeru, an up-and-coming rapper, is filming a video for his collaboration with another rapper in the street.

"We have so much to show the world, a lot of art, so many things we want to speak about. We want to show our city, our art and our feelings," he said.

Most of the content they film here is likely to find its way onto social media platforms including Twitter, YouTube and recently, TikTok.

Although many of these platforms have been in use for long, social-media users say things took a different turn at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"You can see that most people came up with ideas and wanted to let it spread out," said photographer Ebrahim Wafula.

While some people took to filming and taking photos on their phone cameras, others decided to seek a more polished touch. That's where the professionals who come to town on Sundays come in.

"All the people can do content. They can come up with ideas. But when it comes to shooting, there's always this specific skill that someone needs to see. The quality from the camera just can't compare with the phone," said Wafula.

The county government of Nairobi, which once halted filming has now allowed these young content creators to film in the area freely. And with better quality videos, they're targeting the wider world.

Like social media is mainstream, so if anybody is making an advert, they want to make an advert to put on their Instagram, on their TikTok, you know, something that will interact with their targeted clients," said Rydah, commercial photographer.

Higher views can lead to popularity and in some instances chances to earn money from their creations.

And on social media, these content-creators' voices intermingle with others from across the world, just as loud, just as important.

"I'd like people to know what young people have to offer. Let's stop crime, let's rhyme now," Njeru said.

Through their creations, they feel seen, heard and acknowledged, from their street corners to the world.

Sci-fi series Three-Body showcases unique heroism in Chinese culture, says chief producer

Three-Body, the Chinese TV adaptation of Liu Cixin's Hugo Award-winning sci-fi novel The Three-Body Problem showcases Chinese people's unique values of heroism, said chief producer of the phenomenal drama.

The recently concluded 30-eposide Chinese sci-fi epic TV series Three-Body, which began streaming on China Central Television Channel 8 and Tencent Video during prime time on Jan 15, has attracted loads of positive reviews from the audience, both domestically and internationally, especially after it met viewers in different regions around the world such as North America, Europe and the Middle East.

Bai Yicong, chief producer of the show, said that the TV series has once again sparked a craze for science fiction in China. But for a long time, Chinese people mostly watched European and American sci-fi films and dramas, and sci-fi elements were rarely seen among the Chinese dramas sold to overseas markets.

"This is a work based on the Chinese culture, and in this work, we have presented the ideological thoughts of Chinese people. For most of the foreign sci-fi blockbusters, we can see that they usually depict characters like solitary heroes or superheroes, while in this show, they are all ordinary people who unite together to solve various problems," said Bai Yicong.

Preparations for the series began seven years ago, with the crew closely consulting with science and technology experts and sci-fi specialists, aiming to make the story largely faithful to the original work.

Many scenes were shot on the grounds of prominent Chinese scientific institutes. The team worked on the script for four years and spent 126 days shooting, traveling to many places like Ningbo City in east China's wealthy Zhejiang Province, the capital city of Beijing, and Heihe in northernmost part of China, and creating more than 270 film sets, to precisely replay details of the original book.

The Three-body Problem is the first novel of the Three-body trilogy, which depicts the rise and fall of human civilization and the three-body civilization in the universe, and is considered as a milestone in the country's science fiction history.

As the influence of the Three-body Problem IP has spread to the entire world, it has also become an important carrier for Chinese culture to go global.

Jade articles excavated at Shijiahe prehistoric site showcase exquisite carving skills

A large number of jade articles that have been excavated at the Neolithic Shijiahe site in Tianmen City, central China's Hubei Province showcase exquisite carving skills and distinctive regional characteristics.

The Shijiahe site is among the largest and most enduring prehistoric cities in the middle reaches of the Yangtze River. The site has seen the excavation of large sacrificial sites, exquisite jade articles and mass-produced red pottery cups.

The jade articles contain an array of elegant and vivid designs, including a jade pendant in a double-eagle shape with a tiger base, a jade phoenix and many jade tigers.

"The crawling, flaky tiger-shaped pendants were mostly found to be dating from the Shang and Zhou Dynasties (1600 to 256 B.C.). But in recent years, tiger-shaped pendants have also been found among the Shijiahe jade articles, indicating that the jade articles from the Shijiahe culture have a profound influence on generations to come," said Chen Chun, a staff member from the Hubei Museum.

Jade figures also take a prominent position in the Shijiahe excavations. Some jade figures, with flaring eyes and ears, are highly similar to the bronze figures unearthed at the Sanxingdui site in the upper reaches of the Yangtze River.

"The jade figures all have big, diamond-shaped eyes, protruding ears and a bulbous nose. We can say that the Sanxingdui culture in the upper reaches of the Yangtze River and the prehistoric Shijiahe culture in the middle reaches of the Yangtze River share the same cultural inheritance and integration factors," said Fang Qiang, vice curator of the Tianmen Museum.

"Stove-boiled tea" accentuates China's traditional tea culture

Taking a break for some "stove-boiled tea" in good company has become trendy among young people in China, reflecting the increasing popularity of China's traditional tea culture among the younger generation.

"Stove-boiled tea" could date back to the Tang (618-907) and Song (960-1279) dynasties, but it has recently started to make a comeback. Since the end of last year, over 730,000 individual posts tagged stove-boiled tea have been uploaded to Xiaohongshu, one of China's most popular social media networks. This resurgence has led many teahouses downtown, and in the suburbs to provide either charcoal or electrical stove tops, so people can sit down for tea, chat and some warm snacks.

"We need to make a reservation. It's so popular that it's hard to get a table. It's a popular place to take photos," said a customer.

Another lady said the leisure activity could ease her nerves in fast pace life.

"The pace of life is very fast. It's rare to find a good place where you can slow down," said a young lady.

Customers are typically served teas that can be steeped at low heat, such as aged white tea, Pu'er or black tea, along with the tea comes a variety of snacks like oranges, nuts, dried persimmons, marshmallow and some Chinese pastries.

"We used to boil tea in our courtyard, and many customers joined us. So we explore this new way of serving tea. We use charcoal stoves in our courtyard, and electric ones inside. We have also added some popular elements to attract younger customers and promote tea culture," said Wang Jiao, a teahouse owner.

"Stove-boiled tea" is believed to be derived from "Huotang Roasted Tea", a traditional custom among local ethnic minority groups in Yunnan Province that has been listed as intangible cultural heritage. The activity began to go mainstream after it was seen in the costume drama "A Dream of Splendor", which puts spotlight on ancient tea art.

"'Stove-boiled tea' is changing young people's understanding of drinking tea. Maybe young people will fall in love with tea culture in the future. If traditional ways of drinking tea become fashionable, they can further promote tea culture. Many teahouses say they will offer new scenarios for drinking tea in spring," said Sun Yu, senior director of public affairs department of Meituan, a leading Chinese shopping platform.

Traditional culture gaining popularity among youngsters in China

Traditional culture showed in innovative ways with modern technologies is becoming more and more popular among youngsters in China.

Over the past few years, an increasing amount of products with traditional Chinese cultural elements, shows and exhibitions went viral on social media, igniting a passion for the beauty of Chinese culture among young people.

The dance show "Tang Gong Ye Yan" ("Night Banquet in Tang Dynasty Palace") was considered a highlight of the 2021 Spring Festival Gala of Henan Satellite Television, whose gala was widely praised by audiences that year.

It depicts the process from preparations to performing by a group of female musicians at a banquet in the Tang Dynasty (618-907). It breaks the stereotype of a lyric atmosphere of Chinese classical dance and offers an amusing and real-life view into traditional times.

The performance is one of many pieces created by the Zhengzhou Dance Troupe, which features a new fashion trend mixing traditional culture with modern elements. The performers are currently on a months-long national tour as the performance is popular in many provinces in China.

"The national tour will last for another month. The troupe will be in Guangxi, Anhui and many other provinces. From what I know, wherever the troupe goes, the tickets are sold out once they are released," said Lou Bingbing, a member of Zhengzhou committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), and director of Zhengzhou Song and Dance Theater.

"Our Henan people seem to have some impetus. With the rich culture in central China, how should we further deliver our culture?" Lou said, noting the team never stops thinking about how to spread traditional Chinese culture in innovative ways.

Together with his team, Chen Lei, a young gala show director, used modern technologies, including augmented reality and virtual reality, to bring the show from the stage to a virtual museum setting, incorporating various cultural relics.

The innovation has drawn flocks of youngsters to museums.

"The people who were born after the 1990s or 2000 have a better understanding of modern life, but at the same time, are eager to know more about the nation's traditions," said Ma Xiaolin, a member of the CPPCC National Committee and director of Henan Museum.

According to Ma, 70 percent of visitors to the Henan Museum located in Zhengzhou City are aged below 35, and museums have been introducing more and more innovative digital technologies and devices to enrich the visitor experience as more cultural offerings are needed for the younger generation.

Hainan Expo organizers unveil new look of gibbon mascots

Organizers of the 2023 Hainan Expo on Friday released new look for the event's mascots, which combines concepts of high-tech, advanced manufacturing and local culture, elements that represent the southern Chinese province.

The third China International Consumer Products Expo will be held from April 11 to 15 in Haikou. Gibbon mascots Yuanyuan and Xiaoxiao are donning a new look and going mechanical, whose outfits embody the three dominant and distinctive industries of Hainan, namely the seed industry, deep-sea industry and aerospace industry.

"The introduction of modern and high-tech elements such as metal gears, batteries and LCD screens on the outfits of Yuanyuan and Xiaoxiao demonstrates the power of technology and implies that technology is the driving force behind industrial development," said Liu Rutao, deputy director of the Hainan Provincial Bureau of International Economic Development.

Merchandise based on the mascots will also be available for purchase during the expo. The goal of these peripheral products is to promote the conservation of gibbons.

The southern Chinese province is home to 36 Hainan gibbons. They are endemic to the island and are the most endangered of all gibbons and the world's rarest primate.

"We will collaborate with the Hainan Expo to launch a limited-edition gift badge box with the updated image of the mascots to make it a souvenir for this year's event," said Chen Xiaoyun, vice president of Pop Mart.

By March 2, a total of 57 brands from close to 20 reputable domestic and international companies had confirmed the debut of 68 products at the expo. These include high-end cuisine, electronics, jewelry, cosmetics, and fragrances.

Singapore's last old-school lion head craftsman keeps traditional techniques alive

Singapore's last known craftsman who creates hand-made lions heads as part of the age-old custom of lion dancing has shared how his passion for the craft is unwavering despite increasing competition from cheaper, factory-made options.

Veteran artisan Henry Ng has been in the business for over three decades and is now locally regarded as a master for his skill in the ancient art form which is thought to date back well over a thousand years.

Far more than merely choreography and costumes, Ng considers the lion dance be a sophisticated art form of emotional expression with vibrant performances that tell compelling stories.

Featuring two dancers hidden away under each colorful lion costume, the lion dance is considered by many as one of the most iconic forms of Chinese celebrations, and is commonly seen during festive occasions such as the Chinese New Year.

Working 12 hours a day, it usually takes Ng around five days to complete a single lion head. During that time, he must build the scaffolding, use adhesive to apply the paper, and complete two stages of decoration on the finished structure.

Ng's fascination with lion dancing started in school where he trained as a young lion dancer before teaching himself how to craft the heads -- a process that involved much trial and error, as well as countless strips of bamboo.

The major turning point in his life came in 1995, when Ng made the bold call to quit his job as an aerospace engineer to pursue his passion full time.

"I felt that aerospace was a challenging job. I thought this was going to be my career for life. Slowly, I started feeling that this is not what I want, because I wanted something that's more challenging. When I resigned, I didn't know what I would be doing. My friend told me, 'you can make lion heads.' Who knew I would continue doing it until today?" he said.

When Ng first started his full-time career as a lion head maker, there were around 10 other contemporary craftsmen in Singapore. As the old generation of artisans dropped out, however, few have stepped up to take their places. Throughout the years, Ng has taken in several apprentices, but seemingly none of them had what it takes.

"People today are not so good in terms of courtesy. So they would say that they want to learn from you, but in terms of attitude and performance, I don't see much hope in them," Ng said.

As time wore on, however, Ng found himself struggling to compete against a new era of cheaper, mass-produced factory-made alternatives flooding the market.

With the higher costs associated with his more precise way of doing things, Ng's business struggled to compete with the mass-produced alternatives which were becoming more readily available.

But despite the availability of these cheaper options, many traditional lion dancers still prefer the artisan quality of Ng's hand-crafted lion heads even though his products cost about 1,100 U.S. dollars, compared to just 300 dollars for the factory-made heads.

"In the past there were no imported lion heads, so most of the lion heads were made by local masters. But one by one the local masters have either passed on or given up their craft. So, there was a period of time whereby there was an influx of factory-made and mass produced lions and people were naturally drawn towards that because of the lower cost," said Adrian Chia, president of the Xinyang Athletic Association, a club dedicated to lion and dragon dances.

Chia said he keeps a collection of over 50 of Ng's works, including some of his earliest pieces. He says that in terms of materials, paint work and lacquer, Ng's heads beat the competition in every category, which means that using them in dances lends a certain prestige, particularly now that he is Singapore's undisputed number-one lion head craftsman.

My friend told me 'you can make lion heads.

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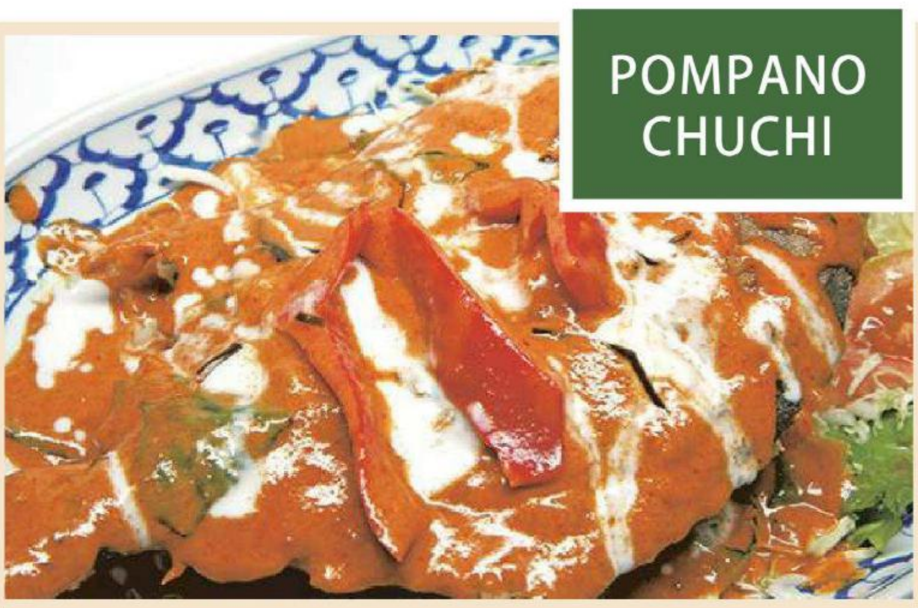

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